

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

**Writs-crackers**  
Writs fly thick and fast in America, land of the litigious, during the season of goodwill.

**Run...**  
Michael Seely on Fred Winter, the top National Hunt trainer.

**...rabbit**  
Among the Christmas post: Letters from Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin.



**Class...**  
The rise of the middle class pressure groups.  
**...warfare**  
Sowing the seeds of civil war in Namibia.

## Nilsen hurt in prison yard scuffle

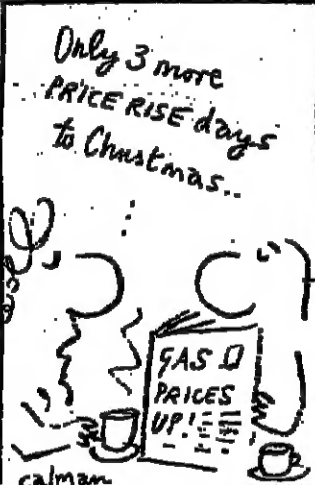
Dennis Nilsen, serving a life sentence for murder, was treated in Wormwood Scrubs hospital, London, yesterday for a four-inch cut to his left cheek after a scuffle in an exercise yard with another prisoner.

The Prison Department said it was believed a razor blade was used.

## UN chief's fear of nuclear war

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, urged Mr Andropov and Mr Reagan to have the courage to negotiate and help avert a nuclear war. Nobody gave them the right to decide mankind's fate, he said.

"Mad" superpowers, page 5



Only 3 more PRICE RISES to Christmas...

## Picket appeal

Leaders of the National Graphical Association have asked "sympathetic" unions to back the repositioning of a picket line at the Warrington print works of Mr Eddie Shah. Facility withdrawn, page 2

## Swedes defiant

Sweden defied US pressure to hand over American computers seized en route to Russia. As a gesture of neutrality, it decided to keep them indefinitely in Sweden. Page 6

## Olivetti deal

American Telephone and Telegraph is taking a 25 per cent stake in Olivetti, the Italian data processing company, through a \$260m (£183m) share issue. Page 13

## Wales fail

Wales failed to qualify for the European Championship football finals when Yugoslavia beat Bulgaria with a goal in injury time in Split yesterday. Page 17

## Leader, page 11

Letters: On Harrods bomb, from Mr D. E. Meenan, and others; gas industry, from Sir Kenneth Hutchison, FRS. Leading articles: Parliament; Policy on IRA; Poland. Books, page 9

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of John Gray, the model for Dorian Gray; Antonia Byatt on Freud, Bevis Hillier on Blackwell's, Elaine Feinstein on fiction, Glynis Goulden on travellers' tales, Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd on beer. Features, pages 8, 10

A crucial weekend in the BBC's ratings battle; Bernard Levin on royalty, smoking and ground in the US; Christmas cajoled, the professional way; a profile of Roald Dahl. Obituaries, page 12

Gwen Berryman, Major-General R. A. Hutton

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# Radioactive leak at Sellafield may lead to prosecution

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

British Nuclear Fuels, the company which runs the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield (formerly Windscale) in Cumbria, may be prosecuted over the abnormal discharges from its Irish Sea pipeline early last month which resulted in the formation of a radioactive slick.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has been called in after investigations of the incident have disclosed that there may have been breaches of the law requiring exposures to the public from discharges to be kept "as low as reasonably achievable" and proper records to be kept.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, announcing the DPP's involvement in the Commons yesterday, added that there may have been other breaches of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate site licence.

He told MPs, however, that it was clear from the early inquiries that there had been no breach of the authorized limits on radioactive discharges, although he added that the Government was considering imposing still lower limits.

The company and its chief officers could be prosecuted under the Radioactive Substances Act of 1960, which governs the discharge of radioactive material into the sea.

The penalties are a fine of up

to £1,000 or up to three months' imprisonment on summary conviction or, on indictment, an unspecified fine, up to five years in prison or both.

Mr Jenkin also told the Commons that after an investigation by the National Radiological Protection Board, which analysed seaweed and other flotsam collected 10 miles on either side of the pipeline, that he could not withdraw his advice to the public against unnecessary use of the beaches for the time being.

Although it remained true that any risk of contamination to the public was extremely small, radioactive flotsam was still being found, he said.

At the same time a report has been published by Ministry of Agriculture scientists on the marine, environmental and agricultural consequences of the discharge. Summarizing it, Mr Jenkin said that it showed there had not been any significant effect on fish, shellfish and other foods, and that there was no reason why people should not eat local catches or farm produce.

The protection board concluded that radioactivity in the seaweed samples it examined was well below the level which would constitute a hazard to the general population, but its main concern was that anyone handling the more active samples taken from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for

the skin after only brief direct contact.

Mr Jenkin has referred the issue to the DPP after seeing early results of the investigations by the radiochemical inspectorate of the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive's nuclear installations inspectorate, which he promised would be published as soon as possible after they were received by ministers, "provided there is no risk of prejudicing any legal proceedings".

MPs of all parties expressed grave concern inside the House and outside about Mr Jenkin's statement. The ministers who referred to management error in the operation of the plant, that it was an accident which should not have happened.

The Greenpeace environmental group said last night that the statement had been weak and indecisive. The only credible course for the Government to restore confidence in the plant would have been to stop discharges.

Mr Jenkin is understood to be highly likely to introduce lower discharge limits, not because they have been exceeded in this incident but because they were set on the assumption that there would be an even dispersal of radioactivity, and not a clustering effect as shown by the analysis of the seaweed.

Parliament, page 4

## Poseidons could leave US base at Holy Loch

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The United States government is believed to have indicated to the British government at the highest levels that it may wish to cease using Holy Loch in Scotland as a base for its nuclear submarines, from about 1985 or 1986.

Holy Loch on the lower Clyde is the home of the United States Navy's Submarine Squadron No 14, which comprises up to 10 Poseidon submarines. The base has a staff of at least 1,800, with a similar number of dependants also living in the area.

Although the nuclear base has been a focus for hostile attention from the peace movement in Scotland, its closure would result in a significant reduction in economic activity on the lower Clyde estuary, which already faces severe problems with the threatened closure of the Scott Lithgow shipyard at Greenock, just across the estuary from Holy Loch, which could cause the loss of 8,000 jobs.

The British Ministry of Defence said yesterday that it



The Poseidon missile has lessened the strategic significance of Holy Loch.

had not heard of any American plan to withdraw, and any such reports must be speculative.

It is possible that even if the Poseidon submarines are withdrawn the Americans will wish to continue to maintain a facility at Holy Loch for other purposes.

Only recently, in the American Defence budget for 1984, the spending of \$4m to construct a new pier and warehouse at Holy Loch was approved, with construction scheduled to begin next April. Holy Loch has been in use as a US nuclear submarine base since the 1960s. The base was particularly important in the early years because the Polaris missiles which the submarines then carried had a range of only about 1,500 nautical miles, and it was necessary for there to be a base from which the submarines could operate in the waters relatively close to the Soviet Union. This agreement has continued to apply, though with less force, since Polaris was replaced by Poseidon missiles which have a range of around 2,800 miles.

## OECD forecasts UK recovery among fastest in Europe

From Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent, Paris

Britain's economy was said yesterday to be recovering faster than most countries in Europe, but with prospects of a sustained period of growth still threatened by continuing high interest rates and huge budget deficits in the United States.

This was among the main conclusions of the latest set of authoritative half-yearly economic forecasts from the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, the international club of leading industrialized countries. The OECD report is likely to be seen by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other European leaders as useful ammunition in their efforts to persuade President Reagan to modify his economic policies.

The report, published in Paris, says that unemployment in Britain is likely to remain unchanged until 1985, but will continue to rise in the rest of Europe during that period. Britain can also expect economic growth of 2.25 per cent next year, 0.75 per cent lower than forecast by the Treasury, but still higher than every European country except Spain, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland.

The main question, the OECD says, is not so much whether Britain's recovery will continue, but whether its recent strength can be sustained. Its conclusion is a cautiously

## Grant of £2m to cover losses at London Zoo

By Our Political Staff

Parliament is to be asked to approve a grant of up to £2m to cover this year's expected operating deficit of the Zoological Society of London.

Announcing this in a Commons Written answer yesterday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, also said that the Government had agreed to provide financial support for up to three more years, ending on March 31, 1986.

The grant will cover the deficit, and also pay for the first stage of a plan drawn up by City consultants involving basic

operations and minimal maintenance at the Zoos Regent's Park and Whipsnade.

Last year, the number of visitors to the Regent's Park zoo was almost unchanged from 1981 at just over one million, but rising costs took their toll.

Mr Jenkin said it was clear that it would be a little time before the society could dispense with government support.

But the president and council had assured him of their best endeavours to reduce the society's operating deficit and do without government revenue support after 1986.

A number of performers could find themselves banned from the Festival Hall if the move goes ahead, the London promoter, Mr Raymond Gubbay, said last night. "I don't think any promoter



Child crusader: A Shia boy displaying support for Ayatollah Khomeini during a demonstration in Beirut yesterday. Lebanon severed relations with Iran last month.

## Five held in hunt for Harrods bombers

By Stewart Tendler

Five Irishmen were held for questioning in London and Manchester yesterday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by detectives investigating the Provisional IRA bombing at Harrods. Police are also searching for a sixth man in the Midlands.

None of the men is thought to be directly involved in the Saturday's bombing, but detectives hope they may provide useful information.

Four were arrested in north and west London, partly yesterday in an operation organized by the Special Branch and carried out by the branch anti-terrorist squad officers and the Special Patrol Group.

The four were taken to Paddington Green police station, considered the most secure London station, and normally used for people held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. No details were released about the four or about the fifth man held in Manchester.

At Scotland Yard, detectives under Commander William Huckleby, head of the anti-terrorist squad, were still trying to trace the movements of the Austin 1300 used to hold the bomb. Attempts have been made to produce an artist's impression of the man who

bought the car from a part-time car dealer last month, but detectives are not yet happy that it should be issued.

Inquests on the five who died in the blast were opened yesterday by Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner, and adjourned to February 15.

A number of the 95 people injured were still in hospital yesterday. Inspector Stephen Dodd, aged 34, was in a critical but stable condition after an operation to remove a blood clot on the brain.

A fund for police victims of the bomb was set up yesterday to cope with money and gifts from well-wishers.

More than £12,000 in cash and cheques has been sent to Chelsea police station. Two rooms have been needed to store Christmas hampers, drink and flowers sent in for the 13 injured officers from Chelsea and the families of the two dead.

Donations include £1,000 from a company, nearly £200 from residents of a local block of flats and 60p from three boys aged eight.

Three Chicago policemen flew to London yesterday to honour the two police officers killed.

Shopping crowds, page 2. Leading article, letters, page 11

## Cabinet likely to reject calls to ban Sinn Fein

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Cabinet is likely to take the advice of Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and reject calls for banning Provisional Sinn Fein when it discusses the issue today at its last meeting before Christmas.

Mr Prior's warnings of the dangers involved in prescribing the Provisional IRA's political wing will be heeded by ministers, and the postponement by Dr Garret FitzGerald's Government on imposing a ban in the Republic will also influence them.

However, the last document on which the Official Unionist politician, Mr Edgar Graham, was working when he was murdered, was published yesterday, calling for Provisional Sinn Fein's proscription, internment of its leaders and exclusion of its members from posts in public service.

Mr Graham had checked proofs of the paper on the night before he died, and it states: "The reality is that they are a political front for the Pro-

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Shopping crowds, page 2. Leading article, letters, page 11

## Deader gas from New Year's Day

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices are to rise by up to 4.3 per cent on New Year's Day, but standing charges have been pegged. Any further increases during 1984 have been ruled out by British Gas.

The cost of heating a typical three-bedroom home by gas central heating will rise by 26p a week and British Gas estimates that cooking costs for a family of four will rise by 2.5p a week.

British Gas has also put back an increase in industrial gas contract prices from mid-January to April 1 "to continue to help British business in the fight against recession."

The tariff changes is the first for 15 months and comes after confirmation that new financial targets have been agreed between British Gas and the Department of Energy. In contrast with the electricity supply industry, which is opposing price increases to meet new government financial targets, British Gas emphasized yesterday that the price rise decision was its own and not the Government's.

British Gas also said that the increase was in line with its policy of setting a long-term pattern of modest increases to compensate for natural gas price rises. Letters, page 11

## Eight die in blast on French base in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

At least one French soldier and seven civilians were killed and 17 other people were wounded last night in the latest attack on French troops of the multinational force in West Beirut.

In a pattern which has now become all too familiar to American and French soldiers here, a lorry was driven towards the heavily guarded and sand-bagged French base at Nasra not far from the old Beirut front line and the explosives on board were detonated a few seconds after the driver had leapt clear.

The bomb blasted down an apartment block and civil defence workers were last night burrowing into the ruins to search for civilian victims.

The lorry rammed an earth embankment - specially built to protect the French from just such an attack - at the back of the schoolhouse where the French troops are billeted. The soldiers there apparently had no time to fire at the driver before the attack. The explosion was so powerful that it blew a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep into the road.

At almost exactly the same time, another bomb was thrown at a West Beirut bar where American Marines often drink killing at least three people and wounding several others.

The Pickwick Bar, just off Hamra Street, was devastated in the explosion and the first police to reach the building found two of the bodies burning fiercely.

A US Marine guard from the American Embassy had been drinking in an adjoining room but was not hurt by the blast.

The bombings, which were almost certainly carried out by Shia Muslim extremists, came at the end of a day in which Israeli jets had bombed Iranian and Shia militia positions around the eastern Lebanese city of Baalbek. Syrian troops fired barrages of missiles at the Israeli planes and the authorities in Damascus later claimed that seven civilians had been wounded, two of them seriously, when bombs exploded in the Shaikh Abdullah barracks south-east of Baalbek where Iranian revolutionary guards are living.

The barracks was captured from Lebanese soldiers earlier this year and was the target of a French air raid last month which failed to damage either the barracks or the buildings inside. The Israelis said that the Iranian position - the Israelis called it a terrorist base - had housed the men who planned both attacks on Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and on the multinational troops in Beirut.

The attacks in Beirut last night may thus have been intended as retaliation for the

Continued on back page, col 2

## Abbey National have a haven for roll-up money



Seven Day Account pays 8.25% net!

New taxation laws seem certain to make offshore "roll-up" funds a lot less attractive from January 1st. Now's the time to consider the alternatives. Where else can you enjoy a high return with ready access to your money? If you are a taxpayer, you will have to look a long way to beat the current rate offered by Abbey National's Seven Day Account.

Beats banks, markets, finance houses.

Our rate of 8.25% net of basic rate tax, comfortably exceeds the net return from such commonly recommended "accessible" high-interest deposits as money markets, local authorities and Coiffeux-quoted finance houses. As for conventional clearing bank deposits, our net even exceeds their gross!

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Whether you consider it as a permanent harbour or temporary haven, the Seven Day Account will welcome you back on shore. Your money is readily available on seven days notice of withdrawal, with no financial penalties whatever for withdrawal.

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Full name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ABBEY NATIONAL SEVEN DAY ACCOUNT**

Abbey National Building Society, 27 Baker Street, London W1M 2AA.

## Middle East buyers foiled in share raid

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Middle East investors have built up a 5.2 per cent stake in Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale, the holding company for one of Britain's top merchant banks.

The shareholding was disclosed yesterday after a largely unsuccessful attempt to increase it to 10 per cent.

The shareholders have not been named although they are known to Kleinwort, Benson with whom they have done business. The shares are held through an investment company, for whom L. Messel, the stockbroker-firm, was trying to buy more

Finance and industry, page 13



Sinatra and Bassey: On the GLC list.

## GLC 'apartheid' may hit stars

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The GLC's ruling Labour group hopes to ban entertainers who have performed in South Africa from council premises.

The ban, which would also apply to athletes appearing at Crystal Palace and other GLC-owned sports tracks, would affect entertainers like Frank Sinatra and Shirley Bassey, and classical conductors and soloists.

A number of performers could find themselves banned from the Festival Hall if the move goes ahead, the London promoter, Mr Raymond Gubbay, said last night.

"I don't think any promoter would easily accept that he could not choose the couple he employs like this," Mr Gubbay said. "My reaction is one of some degree of shock. We engage artists for what they are and not for their politics."



# Threatened council's chief accuses Whitehall of distorting budget evidence

By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government  
Correspondent

Mr John Gunnell, leader of West Yorkshire County Council, yesterday accused the Government of "deliberate falsification of evidence" in its efforts to abolish all English metropolitan county councils, including his own.

Mr Gunnell came to London armed with the first of two reports prepared by the Coopers & Lybrand management consultancy, which claimed that some of the evidence put forward by the Government in the autumn was misleading.

Ministers then published a White Paper called *Sireamling the Cities* proposing the abolition of the English metropolitan county councils and the Greater London Council in 1986. Coopers & Lybrand were commissioned to make an independent study of the plans by the county authorities designated for abolition. They are West and South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, Merseyside and Tyne and Wear.

The consultants claimed that ministers had overestimated the amount of "overspend" by metropolitan counties compared with the performance of other English county councils. That was because they had underestimated differences in spending patterns.

Most county councils devoted half of their budgets to education, where inflation had been restrained by falling numbers of children. Only about an eighth of their budgets

Increase in council spending 1979-83 (%)			
Metropolitan counties		All other councils	
Government figures	111	83	83
Coopers & Lybrand	86	78	78

Government figures (Coopers & Lybrand figures adjusted for different council spending patterns. GLC excluded throughout.)

went on police and fire services, where inflation had been more severe because of government demands for expansion and where many costs were controlled by the Home Office and not by councillors.

But the metropolitan councils threatened with abolition used more than a third of their budgets on police and fire services. For them, therefore, much more expense was governed by the Government instead of by councillors. The consultants also said that the White Paper exaggerated the difference in increases in rate demands between metropolitan counties and English councils in general.

"I believe that the White Paper is deliberately deceptive and that the Government has knowingly ignored the statistics," Mr Gunnell said. "We have over 40 per cent of our expenditure in Home Office services. Police and fire pay settlements are higher than in the rest of the public sector."

Mr Gunnell said that the first part of the consultants' study, published yesterday, had cost £40,000. The second part, about the costs of abolition, would appear early next year and would cost £30,000 for each of the six threatened councils.

● The London Borough of Hackney was given leave in the High Court yesterday to seek a ruling that the target spending figure given to councillors by the Government last week was unlawful because it was too low to enable them to do their statutory duties.

Hackney which claims to be the poorest local authority area in the country, rejects government claims that high-spending councils can make further savings without cutting essential services.

## More attacks on rate-capping Bill

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) said yesterday that the Government's plan to impose rate ceilings on high-spending local councils could cost 300,000 jobs.

The Trades Union Congress expressed "total opposition" to proposals in the Government's rates bill to impose their ceilings by "capping" rates.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said that it wanted to start a joint campaign against the Bill with associations of local councils and curb their freedom to provide the services they felt fitted local needs, he said.

Alan Brooke



## Oxford test of health staff freeze

From Nicholas Timmins,  
Social Services Correspondent,  
Oxford

Plans for a radical shift in health care from hospitals to the community over the next decade are to be put to Oxford Regional Health Authority next month.

One result of the changes will be a significant increase in staff, up to more than 4,000, with an increase of 36 per cent to 4,330 in the number involved in community services.

With the Government attempting to freeze National Health Service manpower at about its present level, the proposals will provide a key test of whether health ministers are prepared to see manpower rise to provide the type of community based service that the Department of Health is advocating.

The plans envisage a doubling of day care treatment in the region to 25 per cent of all acute cases, with shorter stays in hospital for maternity patients, in a package that will cut about £11m from projected spending on acute services by 1994.

Large mental illness and mental handicap hospitals in the region, including Fair Mile, St Crispin, St John's, Borocourt and Littlemore hospitals, would be closed, or reduced in size, being replaced by community-based units and more care at home, both for those patients and the elderly.

Spending on those groups would rise by about £19m, which is £8m more than if the services continued in their present pattern.

A large investment would be put into health education in an attempt to cut treatment for cancer and heart disease by 25 per cent over the 10 years, by persuading people to stop smoking, and eat a healthier diet.

The proposals would mean an increase of about 13 per cent in staff at a time when the region's population is expected to rise by about 11 per cent.

With almost 30 per cent of the region's buildings classed as being in a poor state of repair, the strategic plan envisages disposing of outdated ones, including remote large institutions. Land sales should raise £22m in the next decade.

Dr Ronnie Pollock, the Oxford region's specialist in community medicine, said the region believed it could achieve the change without local authority services having to spend more. "This is not an attempt to pass the responsibility to local authorities."

The plans were criticized by the "Who Cares" campaign, set up by ten trade unions in the region.

## Crowds 'thinned' by Harrods bomb

By Robin Young

Despite the Home Secretary's declaration that not to go shopping in the West End of London this Christmas was the best way to avoid the IRA, there was little doubt among the general public in Oxford Street, Regent Street and Knightsbridge yesterday that the last-minute shopping crowds had been deterred by Saturday's bomb explosion at Harrods.

Regular shoppers, bus conductors, taxi drivers and staff at Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Circus Underground stations were all agreed that the crowds were appreciably thinner than in previous years. Store managers, however, insisted that the impression was a false one, not borne out by their trading figures.

Harrods itself was clearly busier than it had been on Monday, when the comparatively few shoppers were congratulating each other on having come to "the safest place in London."

Staff admitted, though, that the shop was considerably quieter than would have been expected in the normal pre-Christmas rush. "Usually you cannot move in here at this time of year," one senior staff member said. "At least it is a bit more comfortable for the faithful who have come." The management declined to quote their takings.

Selfridge's, however, claimed to be "busier than last week and much busier than last year."

Marks & Spencers, while allowing that the West End did

seem quieter, insisted they had no figures to bear it out. "For us it has simply been a very good Christmas, especially in the gift and speciality food lines."

For Liberty in Regent Street it was claimed that figures were showing "a most satisfactory increase" on the same period last year. "We do not feel that our customers have been deterred, and we are now preparing our biggest ever post-Christmas sale."

This last will be good news for my taxi driver who said: "I decided not to go to the shops before Christmas this year, but to give my family promissory notes for the winter sales. I do not call that a victory for good sense and sound economy."

● The Arts Council yesterday withdrew a £1.750 guarantee for

a concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, after it discovered that posters for the event contained references to the IRA (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

Sir William Rees-Mogg, the Arts Council chairman, said: "The concert as originally planned appeared to consist of unexceptionable twentieth-century music. However, the main piece in the concert was described as Agitprop with the clear implication that purpose is to make political propaganda in favour of the IRA. This is unacceptable."

The guarantee was given to a London promoter, Matchless Music for a concert by the Elster Collective on January 19. The poster produced by Matchless Music for the event showed a picture of a woman backed by the slogan "IRA - Long Kesh."

The central part of the concert was to have been an adaptation of Brecht's *The Mother* by John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy, the husband and wife writers who live in Ireland and have espoused republican causes in the past.

Matchless Music refused to comment.

● Stocks of blood at the South London Transfusion Centre at Tooting, almost exhausted by demand after the Harrods bombing, were renewed yesterday by transfers of 200 pints each from centres in Southampton and Bristol and the Army's blood supply depot at Aldershot.

Leading article and letters, page 11



Mr Leon Brittan: Advice unheeded

## Surgeons set for more heart-lung transplants

By Thomson Prentice

Heart and lung transplants will continue to be carried out in Britain despite the death of Mr Lars Ljungberg, the first heart-lung patient in this country. The next patient is likely to be a seriously ill woman who has been assessed as suitable for the operation.

Mr Ljungberg, aged 32, a Swedish journalist, died in Harefield Hospital, west London, on Tuesday night, 14 days after the operation. Death was due to the failure of his kidneys and other organs, the hospital said.

The surgical team was headed by Mr Magdi Yacoub, who has performed 80 heart transplants, the most recent being six days ago. Mr Yacoub was said yesterday to be "very disappointed, but determined to carry on."

The operation on Mr Ljungberg was considered to be a

Medical Reporter

success. "There was nothing wrong with the technique or the skills of the surgeons," the hospital said. "There was no sign of the new heart and lungs being rejected. Mr Ljungberg was a very, very ill man before the operation. If he had been a little stronger, he might have survived."

At least three patients have been assessed as suitable for heart-lung transplants at Harefield, including the woman who is likely to be the next to undergo the operation. There have been 22 such operations around the world, most of them in the United States and 13 of the patients survive. Of 140 heart transplants in Britain, 83 of the patients are still alive.

Mr Ljungberg's first heart transplant, Mr Derek Marney, died, but that did not deter us from going on," the hospital said.

The operation on Mr Ljungberg was considered to be a

## NGA thwart computer innovation

By David Cross

The National Graphical Association (NGA) has thwarted what would have been a breakthrough in the use of computer technology in the newspaper industry.

Coastalpress, a small publishing company, launched a new tabloid newspaper for motor cycling enthusiasts a month ago with what it thought was the blessing of the NGA for journalists to do most of the work normally carried out by printers.

Instead of writing their stories on typewriters and then passing them to NGA members for setting into type, the journalists would have typed their words directly on to computer discs for direct input to a typesetting computer.

The first edition of *Motorcycling Weekly*, with a print run of about 70,000 copies was set fully by journalists, with NGA members adding typesetting instructions before the material was turned into type.

But when national officials of the NGA in Bedford discovered how the new weekly was being printed, they intervened to stop the practice.

As a result, subsequent editions of the newspaper have been printed with NGA members setting the type for the computer. Mr Chris Harding, an NGA national officer, said yesterday that there had been a "misunderstanding" between Mr Bill Thomson, managing director of Coastalpress, and London Regional officials of the NGA.

While discussions on the possibility of a "mutually beneficial understanding and agreement" on the issue of single key-stroke production methods with Coastalpress would continue, the union was not prepared to allow journalists at the company to set type at the present time, Mr Harding said.

## Correction

Our report on Tuesday of a Restrictive Practices Court judgment referring to the need to have a qualified person in all retail agencies of the Association of British Travel Agents should have stated that the court concluded that the period proposed by ABTA for acquiring the necessary practical experience was right, not that the court gave no indication of a minimum length of practical experience.

## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

It might seem out of proportion to ascribe too much significance to Mr David Steel's decision not to address the Liberal candidate's annual conference at Oxford next month. He is reluctant to let himself down because the dates have not yet been fixed for his New Year visit, and the conference is at an awkward time for him anyway.

Yet it is hard to believe that these would be sufficient reasons for his declining to make even a tentative commitment if he were really eager to speak to his troops. One might have expected him to be there at the front line at the next election, and this would surely be a good opportunity for him to rally their spirits after the disappointment of the last election and the uncertainties over his own intentions that followed so soon after.

So this episode, trivial though it might appear, raises the question as to whether he really still has the appetite for the wearisome task of leading a smaller party. There is no reason to doubt his health. He has fully recovered his fitness after his summer holiday, whatever it was. Nor is there any reason to doubt his intention to lead the Liberals into the next election. Above all, there is no doubt that he is the best man for the job, provided that he still has the zest.

## Exaggerated hopes, excessive deflation

But has he? He was not only tired and unwell during the summer. He was also fed up, not least with his party. Much of the trouble, I suspect, was that he and they were more disappointed than they should have been by the election results.

They had exaggerated hopes and consequently felt excessively deflated. Their thoughts dwell on how few seats they have now in the new Parliament, rather than on the opportunity presented by the number of votes they have won.

Even if its support was inflated by tactical and protest voting, the Alliance did win only 2 per cent fewer votes than Labour. That must give it a chance. If Labour should stumble of appearing as the serious opposition to the Conservatives. It may not be a greater opportunity, but it is there all right.

If it is to be seized, however, there will have to be a massive effort by the Alliance. Mr Steel is conscious of being in a long-distance race. He feels the need to pace himself, and he is well aware that public attention is bound to be directed for a while more towards the new party leaders, Mr Kinnoch and Mr Owen, simply because they are new in their posts.

## More opportunity for SDP leader

These are all reasonable arguments for not pushing too hard too soon. Yet the life of the leader of a smaller party has to be one of unremitting effort. He has much less back-up than the leader of a major party, but he usually has to do even more to provide inspiration and a sense of strategy to his followers. It is bound to be hard for any man to maintain his pitch of enthusiasm high enough for long enough, especially if the lights of office remain tantalizingly distant.

So it is scarcely surprising if Mr Steel has lost a bit of his elan for the moment. This gives Dr Owen an additional opportunity to provide a *de facto* leadership for the Alliance. He has performed well in the House of Commons and in the country since becoming leader of the SDP. But nobody can lead a team if he is not fully identified with it. Just as President Carter found that he could not run the Federal Government effectively so long as he continued to campaign against it, so Dr Owen cannot give the Alliance all he has to give unless he has a slightly semi-detached attitude towards it.

The Alliance needs the two Davids. If Mr Steel is not for a while quite so energetic as he has been, perhaps this will make his party appreciate how much it and the Alliance has benefited from his strong leadership in the past. Sometimes a leader needs to receive as well as to give encouragement.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$2.20; Belgium 2 fr 00; Canada 22.75; Denmark 12.50; France 12.50; Germany 12.50; Greece 12.50; Hong Kong 12.50; India 12.50; Italy 12.50; Japan 12.50; Korea 12.50; Luxembourg 12.50; Netherlands 12.50; New Zealand 12.50; Norway 12.50; Portugal 12.50; Singapore 12.50; South Africa 12.50; Sweden 12.50; Switzerland 12.50; Taiwan 12.50; Thailand 12.50; USA \$1.50; Yugoslavia 12.50.

## Pensions 'robbery' attacked

By Our Political Staff

Mr John Daly, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, said last night that a Treasury plan to increase pensions contributions by 2 per cent of pay for local government workers was "downright robbery".

"It would be nothing but a 2 per cent wage cut aimed at milking public service workers of some £350m as a kind of taxation through the back door."

The proposal, which would affect 1,060,000 local government workers, 820,000 National Health Service employees and 613,000 teachers, is not connected with a report from the Government Actuary this week which said that there should be a 1.05 per cent increase in contributions to the teachers' superannuation scheme from next April.

That report stated that the employers should pay an additional 0.25 per cent, but left to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, apportionment of the remaining 0.8 per cent which is required to make good a balance of liability, a deficiency, of £2,390m in the fund.

● Teachers' unions warned the Government yesterday that they would oppose any attempt to increase their pension contributions by 2 per cent of pay (the Press Association reports).

Teachers contribute 6 per cent of their earnings. They dislike the scheme because they say the money is paid into a notional fund administered by the Government, which in return guarantees their pension.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that teachers were not getting value for money.

## New clue in tracing how cancer starts

By Clive Cookson

Another important step towards understanding how cancer starts is announced today.

A group of researchers at Imperial College, London, supported by the Cancer Research Campaign, report in the journal *Nature* and *Cell* the discovery of a number of genes which are switched on in all tumour cells but not in normal cells.

The team, headed by Dr Peter Rigby, has identified one of those genes as coming from the body's immune defence mechanism.

The gene turns out normally

to be switched on only in the embryo, a dramatic illustration of the long-suspected similarity between cancer cells and embryo cells in the early stages of development.

An editorial in *Nature* says that Dr Rigby's paper is "plainly of the utmost importance, but for reasons which at this stage are not fully apparent."

The implications are important for understanding not only of those genes as coming from the group associated with the body's immune defence mechanism.

The gene turns out normally

## Protection law proposed for British inventions

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Inventions in biotechnology and medicine and innovations resulting from small companies' efforts principal areas in which a new parliamentary Act will be needed to give British scientists proper protection.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, is studying the recommendation and other made by the Cabinet Office Chief Scientific Adviser, Dr Robin Nicholson. The conclusions are in a report published by the Government this week.

On biotechnology the study says living organisms are difficult to isolate from nature and impossible to define adequately in written specifications. As a result, the disclosure necessary for patenting is carried out by depositing some of the actual organism where third parties can examine it.

The new law would be

intended to give the small inventor the chance of quick and cheap protection without undergoing the present full examination process. That can take up to two years and cost about £2,000.

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## Moderates see NUM poll as verdict on left

By Paul Routledge,  
Labour Editor

Moderate leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers are turning next month's election for a general secretary into a test of rank and file opinion about Mr Arthur Scargill's left wing policies.

Mr John Walsh, aged 46, NUM full time agent for the north Yorkshire coalfield, who has been selected as the standard bearer of the right, is campaigning on a ticket of "negotiation not confrontation".

He said yesterday that the present pay dispute between the union and the National Coal Board could be solved by a compromise formula, which he will not disclose unless he is elected general secretary in the secret pit head ballot on January 20.

Mr Walsh is fighting a three-cornered contest against Mr Les Kelly, a branch official from Beal, an Ayr colliery, north Wales, and Mr Peter Heathfield, aged 54, secretary of the Derbyshire miners, the candidate of the left and the favourite.

Mr Walsh, a former amateur rugby league international, said: "I do accept that there are occasions when you have to fight and lose money. But if that decision has got to be made then it should be taken not by the leadership but by the members."

More than 40 winners who do maintenance work at six pits in North Staffordshire are ready to work a normal six day shift system from January 7.



Mr John Walsh: moderate contender

The winner of the election for general secretaryship will act in tandem for three months with Mr Lawrence Daly, who is retiring early at the age of 59 because of ill health.

● Miners in North Staffordshire plan to defy their union's overtime ban next month and work normally (our Stoke on Trent correspondent writes). The potential split over the controversial ban follows the NUM's executive decision not to hold a ballot on whether to continue the action.

More than 40 winners who do maintenance work at six pits in North Staffordshire are ready to work a normal six day shift system from January 7.

## Intruder found twice at Spencer home

By A Staff Reporter

The police have tightened security at the former home of the Princess of Wales after the discovery of a man aged 21 in the private apartments of Lady Spencer, the princess's stepmother.

Mr Maurice Buck, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, said last night that the intruder had been found by a member of staff inside Althorp House on December 10. A week later he was discovered inside the grounds by the west lodge.

The police were called in on both occasions but were satisfied that no criminal offence had been committed. At the family's request no publicity was given at the time and the man was released.

The police would give no further details, but it is understood that the man, who has an obsession with Lady Spencer, aged 54, was found in her bathroom. He is reported to be receiving medical treatment.

## Nunn wins chess prize

From Harry Golembek, Chess Correspondent, Brighton

First prize in the Computer Games Ltd international tournament in Brighton was won on Tuesday by the English international grandmaster, John Nunn, with the excellent score of seven out of nine.

British players occupied the first four places. Final scores were Nunn 7, Short and Watson 6, Hodson 5, Westerman (Finland) 4, Plaskett (England) and Mednis (USA) 4.

The results in the last round were: Nunn 1/2, Plaskett 1/2, Ivanov 1/2, Westerman 1/2, Hodson 1/2, Mednis 1/2, Watson 1/2, Short 0. The game between Muri and Burger was unfinished but looked hopeless for the Israeli.

Short's loss to Watson in the last round was doubly unfortunate.

Short never looked likely to win against Watson. He had black and played a French position. In his attempt to complicate matters he made his position worse. Intending to castle queenside he touched his king, then realizing that to castle he would have to break the rules and move across a line government by an enemy piece he promptly resigned.



## WPC wins sex bias case against police but is censured at tribunal

The police woman at the centre of a sex discrimination dispute won her case yesterday, but was severely censured by the tribunal chairman.

Wendy de Launay, the traffic officer who was banned from working with married male colleagues last February, won her claim for sexual discrimination and victimisation at the London South Industrial Tribunal.

But Mr Geoffrey Higgs, the chairman, declined to make an award for injured feelings and criticized WPC de Launay for not first taking her grievance through the police complaint procedure.

Mr Higgs said that the decision to ban WPC de Launay, aged 25, from her "posted partnership" with Police Constable Trevor Atfield, an experienced traffic officer aged 31, was sexual discrimination, and her return last October to foot patrol in Fulham, west London, was victimisation.

He added that her transfer was a direct result of her complaint to the Equal Opportunities Commission. "She was subjected to sexual discrimination and has made out her case on all counts," Mr Higgs said.

Mr Higgs then made a statement, saying the case was of considerable public interest. "The parties themselves are not beyond criticism in the way they have handled the situation," Mr Higgs said.

Miss de Launay is a member of a disciplined police force and she saw the problem of a relationship with PC Atfield and she should have understood that it was a matter of genuine concern to Chief Superintendent Brian Wallace regarding discipline at the Hampton, Middlesex, garage.

Mr Higgs said that WPC de Launay should have referred the problem to the commander of the police of West division or, if necessary, other senior officers under the orders and regulations.

"Miss de Launay also instituted the proceedings without giving prior notice to Chief Supt Wallace," he said.

"The fact that her conduct may be criticized is not a justification for Chief Supt Wallace to discriminate against her in the way he did, except that he was faced with a general problem."

"We find that he failed to consider the problem closely and seemed to have over-reacted."

Mr Higgs said that the tribunal sympathized with WPC de Launay for the distress she had suffered from the sexual discrimination but it was not appropriate to make a compensatory award.

He adjourned the hearing to give both parties time to "cool off" and the Commissioner time to consider returning WPC de Launay to the traffic division.

Mr Higgs added: "It might be a good thing if the dust was allowed to settle before we decide on what recommendation should be made."

After the hearing WPC de Launay said that she was extremely pleased. "I feel that the hearing was fair and all that I wanted to come out came out."

She added: "I love the police force, but in particular the traffic police. I would like to go to any garage the Commissioner may send me to but obviously I would like to remain in the area where I worked."

WPC de Launay praised the support from PC Atfield, who is now on foot patrol in All Saints Road, in Notting Hill, west London.

PC Atfield said that he, too, was pleased with the result. "It has come out that if you are returned to foot patrol it is considered to be demotion and that is one of the points I wanted to prove."

The Metropolitan Police would make no official comment on the tribunal's findings yesterday.

Chief Insp Brian Corbett, who first told Mr Wallace of a possible relationship between WPC de Launay and PC Atfield, is no stranger to controversy at industrial tribunal hearings.

Three years ago he was involved in the hearing of Miss Maggie Coles, an LBC radio traffic announcer, who claimed, as one of several examples of alleged police harassment, that he had shouted a lewd remark at her while she was on the air.

Miss Coles won her claim for unfair dismissal.



Duty calls: WPC Wendy de Launay, whose claim of sexual discrimination was accepted by a London tribunal yesterday.

## Fire risk claim over 'silly string' aerosol

By David Nicholson-Lord

Many homes could face a serious fire risk at Christmas from aerosol cans of "silly string", a supposedly innocuous solvent-based streamer designed to make parties go with a swing. Tests on one brand indicated that, contrary to the producer's claims, it remained flammable long after being sprayed.

Hundreds of thousands of cans are sold. Concern arose after a London businessman contacted *The Times* with details of tests on one brand, Swan Fun String, produced by Porth Textiles of South Wales.

Mr Ronald Collins, managing director of a telecommunications company and a member of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, noticed that the string turned brown and shrivelled when Christmas tree lights were switched on near it. When he applied a lighted cigarette to it, it burst into flames and dropped hot plastic on to his hand.

Mr Collins, who has worked in fire testing, said: "People spray this stuff on to hair and clothes as well as Christmas trees. But there is no warning on the can that it is highly inflammable."

Porth Textiles, Britain's biggest producer of decorations and plastic Christmas trees, was put into the hands of the receiver earlier this month with £8m debts. The company said yesterday that the can carried the obligatory warning against spraying near a naked flame. Mr Gareth Evans, its quality control manager, said that string contained resins and solvents and might remain flammable for up to two hours while the solvent remained wet. After that it would become crumbly and non-flammable.

There had been "no reports whatsoever" of fires involving silly string.

Mr Collins, however, has found that it was possible to set light to the string two days after it was sprayed.

## 'Christmas in custody' drink-drive warning

By Michael Horsnell

The chairman of Grays magistrates in Essex, who have jailed 11 motorists for drinking and driving in the past week, gave a warning yesterday that offenders could spend Christmas in custody.

Mr Charles Noad, aged 63, a retired businessman, said: "We can not let false sentimentality stand in our way, despite the approach of Christmas. The fact that you are a first offender does not give you a licence to drink and drive and expect the courts to be lenient."

"So far as discrepancies are concerned, courts have to look at the gravity of the offence and the alcohol reading. But it would be helpful if there were greater consistency throughout the country."

"Disqualification and fining were not having the required effect. We would like to stop it being respectable to drink and drive. It is a most anti-social activity which causes death and serious injury."

Earlier yesterday, David Jones, aged 21, was sentenced to two days in a police cell, fined £300 and banned from driving for 18 months by the presiding magistrate, Mr George Walsham.

Jones, an electrician, from South Ockendon, Essex, crashed through a garden hedge after a Guy Fawkes party. An intoximeter showed that he had 63 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath - the legal limit is 35 micrograms.

His mother, Mrs Joyce Jones, aged 47, said afterwards: "I think it is disgusting. Admittedly he was over the limit, but not all that much. The fine would have been quite enough."

Earlier, Mr Walsham fined Mark Corthine, aged 22, a test driver for Ford, £250 for driving with 54 micrograms of alcohol. Corthine, from Stanford le Hope, Essex, was also disqualified from driving for 15 months.

He said afterwards: "The crack-down is diabolical. The police should tell people before they introduce these new measures."

He said that the wide variation in sentencing by courts tempted more people to drink and drive. "It is important that the drivers know they will be imprisoned."

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, called yesterday for the introduction of mandatory prison sentences for drink-drive offences (the Press Association reports).

## Costs disputed in shoplifting case

A magistrate refused costs to Tesco, the supermarket chain, yesterday when it dropped a charge against a widow, aged 73 - but he changed his decision after prosecution protests.

Mrs Hilma Cleavley, of Bentworth Road, Bethnal Green, had been accused at Thames Magistrates' Court of stealing groceries worth £2.74.

Mr Paul Jones, prosecuting, said Tesco would drop the charge if Mrs Cleavley agreed to be bound over. Mrs Cleavley agreed and was bound over for one year.

The magistrate, Sir Bryan Roberts, refused costs over a case involving £2.74.

Mrs Cleavley said she had intended pleading not guilty and electing trial but accepted the binding order to avoid further pressure.

Mr Jones re-applied for costs, accusing Sir Bryan of issuing a thieves' charter and punishing Tesco for its compassion.

He argued that costs could be refused only if the prosecution had misconducted itself. He said the store detective saw Mrs Cleavley place goods from the shelves in her bag without paying.

After an adjournment Sir Bryan awarded £55 costs.

He said: "To proceed for £2.74 against a woman in her seventies who has been of previous good character for 21 years, was not, in my view, a wise decision."

A widow, aged 67, due to appear in court yesterday on a theft charge was found dead at her home by a neighbour.

A note at her side read: "No one loves me, no one cares, so goodbye."

Mrs Daisy Robbins, of Albert Street, Blandford, Dorset, had been accused of taking £120 worth of goods from a Keymarket store.

Her neighbour, Mrs Hazel Downes, said: "The note was carefully written. She didn't talk about the case but it must have been the last straw. She has been depressed since she lost her husband a year ago."

Last night Mr Greville Jenner, Labour MP for Leicester West, condemned the shoplifting law as "unworthy of a decent society."

Mr Jenner is sponsoring a Bill to be debated in the House of Commons next month aimed at tightening control on shoplifting prosecutions.

## The cost of 2 damaged young lives

Two young men who are severely handicapped after being injured in road accidents were yesterday awarded damages in two separate cases in the High Court.

Mr John Fitzgerald, aged 20, of Canterbury Road, Morden, Surrey, was awarded £318,168 for injuries he received when a car in which he was a passenger crashed in October, 1980.

Patrick Mahoney, aged 17, of Clark Street, Whitechapel, east London, was awarded £204,930 after he was knocked down by a crash on a pelican crossing in August, 1976.

Mr Fitzgerald was 17 when he suffered irreversible brain damage which impaired his memory and concentration.

He will never be able to go back to his job as an apprentice carpenter or enjoy table tennis and judo, at which he excelled.

Mr Justice Park, who made the award, said that before the accident Mr Fitzgerald had been "lively, vivacious and enterprising, had a pleasant personality and was a smashing kid with a lovely sense of humour."

Now he was only able to do simple tasks and relied on the devotion of his father, Mr Frederick Fitzgerald, aged 64, and in most respects would be helpless without him. When his father was no longer capable of caring for him he would need a full-time nurse, the judge said.

The damages are to be paid by the driver of the car in which Mr Fitzgerald was a rear seat passenger when it skidded, demolished a road sign and lamp post and then overturned in London Road, Morden. The driver, Mr Kevin White, of Chester Gardens, Morden, admitted liability.

Patrick Mahoney was 10 years old and on his way to swimming baths near his home when a coach struck him as he walked across the pelican crossing.

Head injuries initially left him totally paralysed but he has since regained some movement in his right leg and left arm.

Mr Justice Skinner, who made the award, said that Patrick was 25 per cent to blame because he failed to look properly.

The damages are to be paid by the owners of the coach, Frank Harris Coaches, of Grays, Essex, who admitted liability.

## Costs inquiry urged for universities

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A Rayner-style inquiry into the efficiency of the universities has been proposed by Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, at the direct prodding of the Prime Minister, who is known to be dubious about their parsimony.

The proposal, to be discussed further next month by civil servants, the University Grants Committee and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP), is that a firm of outside consultants, such as Peak, Marwick and Mitchell, or Arthur Anderson, would look at the management of a number of universities.

Any such inquiry should be conducted under the aegis of the universities, but this may not meet with government approval. Although the universities, which eat up £1,400m of public funds annually, are not shunning an inquiry, they do feel they have examined themselves rigorously in the past few years and have cut back as much as they can.

The idea at present is that the inquiry would look at whether the universities provide value for money, but it is not thought likely that staff performance or quality of research would be examined. Items such as estate management and building maintenance would be looked at, as would staff-student ratios.

There are known to be wide disparities in these ratios between institutions in the same subject.

The idea for the review, which was raised at last week's private meeting between Sir Keith and the CVCP, will probably also encompass the way in which resources are allocated by the universities. The decision-making mechanisms of institutions will also come under scrutiny.

Mr Brian Taylor, secretary to the CVCP, said they were prepared for anyone to look at their efficiency, because they were efficient.

"But we want to find a way in which this can be done under the aegis of the universities", he said.

An efficiency survey of the universities would differ from previous Rayner-style inquiries in that it is felt it could not be carried out by civil servants. In order to carry authority with all concerned it would need to be conducted by a respected group of specialists from outside government.

## Duke seeks return of heirlooms

The Duke of Manchester yesterday won the first round of his High Court battle with his elderly stepmother for the return of missing family heirlooms. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Megarry, ordered an inquiry to find out what heirlooms are left and where they are.

The missing heirlooms, said to be worth millions of pounds, include paintings by Holbein and Van Dyke, and the Duke, aged 54, claims them as his right under a family trust, set up in 1923 by his grandfather.

But the Dowager Duchess of Manchester, now in her seventies, and living in Eaton Square, Belgrave, claims that any possessions she has were inherited when the tenth Duke died, aged 75, in 1977.

The matter was adjourned to the new year for further argument. The case has already lasted 11 days. The eleventh Duke, who lives in Kenya, was not in court.

## Actor's claim for fees dismissed

Mr Leslie Phillips, the actor and star of many *Carry On* films yesterday lost his claim in the High Court against his former television agents Stella Richmond for £21,000 in lost fees. Deputy judge Sir Douglas Frank, QC, who dismissed his breach of contract claim also ordered him to pay the costs of the action, estimated at £10,000.

Mr Phillips, aged 60, of Maids Vale, north-west London, said after the hearing: "I am very disappointed at the result."

## Punks chop logs for old people

Out-of-work "punks" in Guildford, Surrey, have got together with local police to help the town's elderly for Christmas by chopping and distributing logs.

Police constable Daniel Glover was impressed by his efforts. "They are just ordinary people who express themselves by their appearance, and this example proves to others that they are capable of being very constructive," he said.

## Police chief guilty of 'kerb-crawling'

The head of Lincolnshire fraud squad was bound over to be of good behaviour for 12 months yesterday after being convicted of "kerb-crawling" in Nottingham's red light district.

Det Chief Insp Robert Warner, aged 49, who had denied the offence at Nottingham Magistrates' Court, agreed to be bound over with a surety of £100.

Mr David Blundell, for the prosecution, said that Warner was cautioned after approaching a woman police constable Jane Walker, who was in plainclothes and on vice squad duty in Hyson Green last September.

Warner, a father of three, from Welton, near Lincoln, told the court that he had realized immediately that WPC Walker, aged 30, was a policewoman.

Mr Blundell said that Warner approached her and asked her how much it would be for "straight sex".

But Warner said that he thought that WPC Walker had been attacked by a man in Hardy Street and had asked if he could help her.

"I was not kerb crawling in the general sense. I was going down the street slowly stopping and starting."

He said that he had lost his way in Nottingham while travelling from Lincoln to Ilkeston. He told the court: "I was not even aware that you had a red light district in Nottingham."

"I did not know that Hardy Street formed a part of that red light district. It was not signposted as a red-light district; these places never are."

Warner refused to name the man he said he was on his way to visit in Ilkeston.

Mr Dick Fletcher, for the defence, said that Warner was a man of integrity and honesty who had been awarded the police long service and good conduct medal.

Warner will face an internal police disciplinary procedure, and could be demoted or asked to resign.

The head of the Lincolnshire CID, Detective Chief Superintendent Colin Bailey, told the court that Warner was an excellent detective who could lose a pension worth tens of thousands of pounds because of his court appearance.

He said that Warner had been 28 years in the force and had 22 months to go before becoming eligible for retirement.

The civil case was brought by police under the Justices of the Peace Act, 1936.

It followed a clampdown on kerb crawling in Hyson Green during which dozens of motorists were cautioned and brought before the courts.

## Detectives praised for not shooting gunman

Flying Squad detectives were praised by a judge yesterday for their restraint in not firing back at a "mad criminal" who was firing a sawn-off shotgun at them.

Judge Brian Gibbons told the Central Criminal Court that if they had done so people in the crowded Chapel Market, Islington, north London, could have been killed. He congratulated Det Sergeant Kelly, aged 30, for his courage in disarming him.

James Daly, aged 29, of Mora Street, Islington, suspected of having IRA links, was jailed for 17 years.

He was convicted of conspiring to rob security guards in Chapel Market and shooting Det Kelly in the face.

Daly, wanted for questioning in connection with a £100,000 robbery in Dublin in which two policemen were shot, was also found guilty of shooting and robbing a security guard, Christopher Sandford, of £10,000 outside a bank in Penge, south London.

The judge said that Mr Sandford, aged 28, had only survived because a doctor and nurse were near by. He still had 90 pellets in his stomach.



Det Sergeant Kelly: Disarmed "mad criminal".

## Woodlands threatened

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Britain's remaining ancient woodlands are being destroyed at a rate unprecedented in peacetime, a report published today claims.

In some counties up to 60 per cent of the semi-natural woodland cover has been removed since the war, a high proportion of that in the past 15 years.

The report is published by the British Association of Nature Conservationists and its author, Mr Richard Grove, says there is a developing crisis in the relationship between forestry and nature conservation.

Decisions made in the near future will determine the form of the British countryside for a long time to come.

The *Future for Forestry* (BANC, c/o Rectory Farm, Stanton St John, Oxford, E3).

Rhododendrons, for which Snowdonia is famous, are choking new growth in woods and forests. The Snowdonia national park authority is sending letters to youth hostels and tourist centers explaining why it is necessary to keep the spread in check.

## Doris Archer actress dies, aged 77

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

Gwen Berryman, the actress who created one of radio's best-loved characters, the Ambridge matron Doris Archer, has died, aged 77, in a Torquay hospital.

Miss Berryman played the role for 29 years until ill health forced her to retire in 1980. The programme attracted a huge audience when Doris Archer died in an armchair in October, 1980, much of it a tribute to an actress who for millions made the character a real person.

Mr Tony Shryane, who produced more than 7,000 episodes of *The Archers* from its start in 1951, said: "She made the character of Doris Archer a national figure, loved and respected by millions. She was a courageous woman who, though often in considerable pain from arthritis, never let it interfere with her work."

In 1981 MBE Berryman was made an MBE.

Obituary, page 12

## Guided buses recall age of the tram

By Michael Bailly Transport Editor

Birmingham hopes to launch a new age of the tram with a "guided bus" due to start in the spring.

Instead of having steel wheels on rails, the otherwise conventional double-deck bus will run along a concrete track. Vertical parapets on either side will steer the bus by means of small guidewheels extending from the front axle.

A half-mile experimental track is being constructed along a disused tramway on the central reservation of a dual carriageway road in an inner suburb, and if successful it will be extended elsewhere in the city.

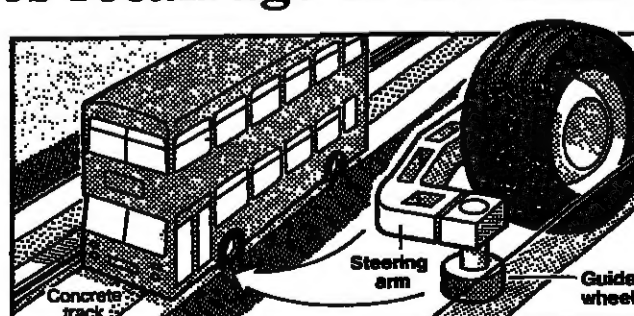
The idea is to slice through urban congestion at far lower cost than a tram or light railway. The city's earlier tramway system, abolished in the 1950s, was one of the finest in the world.

At either end of the guideway, buses will simply drive on and off, continuing through the city in the normal way. A special dispensation is needed from the Department of Transport for the guideway's projecting three inches.

A similar system, developed by Daimler-Benz in Germany, is operating in Essen and is being installed in Adelaide, Australia. Birmingham chose to develop its own system with the help of Metro-Cammell Wayman and Guest, Keen, Nettlefold. Total initial cost is £500,000.

It has four advantages, according to Mr Bob Crawford, director of planning and engineering at the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

Buses can be used flexibly on or off guideways, unlike trams.



## Monopoly study into franking machine firms

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

Two companies dominating the postal franking machine market, Pitney Bowes, of which Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, is a director, and Roneo Alcatel, are to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission following many complaints to the Office of Fair Trading.

The investigation will also include Hasler (Great Britain), a subsidiary of a Swiss company, but Pitney Bowes and Roneo Alcatel, which are both foreign-owned, together account for 95 per cent of franking machines in use in many companies to imprint postage values on envelopes to avoid the use of postage stamps.

Pitney Bowes is the British subsidiary of Pitney Bowes Incorporated in the United States and Roneo Alcatel is part of France's Generale d'Electricite.

## Youth accused of bomb hoax

Andrew Brown, aged 19, a despatch rider, was remanded on £500 bail until December 28 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London yesterday, charged with making a bomb hoax call. The court forbade him to go within two miles of the street from which he is said to have telephoned.

Mr Brown, of Stainer Close, Sholing, near Southampton, is accused of telling police there was a bomb in Blackfriars on Tuesday.

## Parking meters' £133m takings

British parking meters have taken £133,470,000 from motorists since they were introduced 25 years ago, the Royal Automobile Club says.

According to a survey by the RAC, there were 52,720 meters in Britain at the end of March, 400 fewer than last year.

Operating costs have more than doubled since 1978.

## Park keeper saves child from sex attack 'menace'

A man who has spent 28 years in jail for offences against boys was sentenced to another six years' imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The woman park keeper who rescued his latest victim was praised for her "courage and quick thinking".

Mr Lumbech, aged 48, whose longest period of freedom since he was first jailed has been nine months, was a menace to boys, Judge Nina Lowry said.

Lumbech was convicted of child stealing, and attempted gross indecency after an attack on a boy aged nine in Acton, west London. The child, Lumbech's 26th young victim, was snatched from the street as he went to a fish shop. Lumbech dragged him across a park and into a lavatory.

But before any sex assault could take place, the boy's cries were heard by Mrs Anne Ling, the park warden, who ran to his rescue. Mrs Ling, aged 48, comforted the weeping boy when Lumbech fled. She remembered everything she could about the assailant and was able to pick him out later at an identification parade.

Judge Lowry said it was "merciful" that Mrs Ling came on the scene and acted as she did.



Mrs Ling: praised in court.



# Radioactive leak case referred to DPP

## POLLUTION

The series of abnormal discharges of radioactive matter from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd in Cumbria last month has been brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions with whom the Department of the Environment and the Health and Safety Executive are cooperating.

Announcing this in a Commons statement, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said the most important thing was to prevent the repetition of such an incident and both the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and the DoE have notified BNFL of the further measures they wished the company to take.

Mr Jenkin added the people should continue to avoid the beach in the vicinity of the discharges for the time being.

He said: During the six days from November 11 to November 16 a series of abnormal discharges were made from the Sellafield plant of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd through the pipeline to the sea. The discharges followed the washing out of the reprocessing plant in the course of annual maintenance.

Following a management error in the operation of that plant, radioactive liquids including solvent and particulate matter of higher than normal activity were transferred to a sea tank. Attempts were made to transfer the more active material to another storage tank. This was only partially successful and a significant quantity of the radioactivity was discharged to the sea.

The Radiochemical Inspectorate of my department and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive have been carrying out detailed investigations into the causes of the incident. Neither I nor the Secretary of State for Energy (Mr Peter Walker) have yet received final reports.

While it seems clear that there has been no breach of the authorised quarterly numerical limits on the discharge of radioactivity there may well have been breaches of other conditions namely those requiring exposure from discharges to be kept. It is also possible that there were some breaches of other conditions of the NII site licence.

For these reasons the matter has been brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions with whom my department and the Health and Safety Executive are cooperating.

The most important thing is to prevent any repetition of such an incident. Both NII and my department have notified BNFL of the further measures they wish the company to take. The measures so far taken by BNFL include a ban on the discharge of free solvent and an automatic cut-off system governing the discharge of liquid from the sea tanks. Other measures are in hand.

Extensive and continuing monitoring of the environment has confirmed that the risk to the public was, and remains, extremely small. The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Mr Michael Jopling) is today answering a written question announcing the publication of a report on the

marine environmental and agricultural consequences of the discharge. This shows that there has not been any significant effect on fish, shellfish or other foods. There is therefore no reason why people should not eat local catches or farm produce.

Also published today is a report by the National Radiological Protection Board, prepared for my department, on the distribution and analysis of samples of seaweed and other flora collected from the beach ten miles either side of the pipeline.

One conclusion of the report, confirmed by separate analysis carried out by HSE, is that the radioactivity in the samples was well below the level that would constitute any hazard to the general population in the area. The NRPB's main concern, however, is that anyone handling the more active samples taken from the beach could exceed the annual dose limit for the skin after only comparatively brief direct contact.

It was for that reason that, on November 30, my department advised the public to avoid unnecessary use of the beaches on this stretch of coast for the time being. Radioactive flotsam is still occasionally being found, so that it is not yet possible to withdraw that advice.

It remains true that any risk of contamination to the public is extremely small. People should not, however, be tempted to avoid unnecessary use of the beaches between St Bees and Eskmeals and should not handle objects washed up by the sea. Monitoring will continue and my department will keep the public fully informed.

This is an interim report which I have thought it right to make to the House before the Christmas recess. The Government intends that the report, both from the DoE's Radiochemical Inspectorate and from the Nuclear Installations

Inspectorate should be published as soon as possible after they are received by ministers, provided there is no risk of prejudicing any legal proceedings. When we have the final reports I will make a further statement.

Mr John Cunningham, Chief Opposition spokesman on the environment (Copeland, Lab), welcomed the decision to make what he rightly says can only be an interim statement. I agree with him that it is of the utmost importance that the final report of the NII and the Radio Chemical Inspectorate

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are published for the benefit of the House and the country and, not least, for the benefit of my own constituents in West Cumbria.

Is he aware of the very real danger as well as concern which is felt by the community in West Cumbria and indeed people much further afield about this incident which they widely regard as something which should simply not have happened?

What has occurred calls into question the competence of the management at the plant. Does that not in addition mean that public acceptance of the operations of the nuclear industry has been unnecessarily damaged?

Why is it that this eventuality—the discharging of material to the sea—was not recognized when the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate carried out their exhaustive examination of the Magnox facilities and the plant in 1980 and when they reported to the Secretary of State in 1981?

Is the Secretary of State, in talking about this, able to tell us whether it is that the company which will be prosecuted or individuals?

Since it is now clear from published information that BNFL have systematically reduced their discharges to the marine environment over a period of years, they are well capable of operating satisfactorily within much lower discharge limits.

Would not that greater control of discharges bring pressure to bear on the management to prevent this kind of occurrence happening again?

Hitherto, the industry has worked on the principle of discharges being as low as reasonably practicable. It is not now clear from the public reaction and concern that we should move as quickly as possible to a situation where discharges are as low as publicly acceptable.

Does not that mean that discharges of plutonium, caesium and other actinides should be totally eliminated as soon as possible?

Mr Jenkin: We would of course entirely agree that this is an incident which should not have happened and the most important thing is to make sure it should never happen again.

I also agree it is of the utmost importance that the public, both locally and nationally, should be fully confident in the management of these nuclear plants and that this is of the highest importance for the continuance of the country's nuclear programme.

Regarding the competence of management, it would be better if I did not pronounce on that. We have not had the final report and the matter may well be the subject of proceedings in the courts.

He asked whether it would be the companies or individuals who would be prosecuted. That must be a matter for the DPP.

He asked me about the 1980 Nuclear Inspectorate's report on the Magnox plant. It would be wiser to wait for the publication of the final report. On that I can only say some reassurance. Although the Lab, I would agree, I am sure, that we should avoid prejudice of legal proceedings and that should be an over-riding consideration, the latest advice I have had has shown that that need not necessarily



Warren: Increased danger from sea spray

prevent the early publication of the two reports.

On the question of lower discharge limits, from the first statement I made on the subject it is indeed our intention to work for substantially lower authorizations. I repeat now that if the circumstances seem appropriate we are certainly open to consider still further lower authorizations so this plant complies and has to comply with the best world standards for the discharge of radioactivity.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C): Would he ask the agencies concerned to look in particular at the apparent magnitude of the order of 10 to 20 times greater than current in the sea which results as radioactivity coming ashore from sea spray? Mr Jenkin: He will have seen a report in *The Guardian* concerning research at Harwell which is being financed by my department. We have not had the full results of that yet but it is a serious anxiety we shall take such steps as are open to us.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Workington, Lab): If the Director of Public Prosecutions does recommend prosecution it will be a just return for BNFL for having pursued the policy of releasing radioactivity into the sea which has cost the country £50,000 which they could ill-afford.

In my constituency great damage has been done to the tourist and fishing industries and would he consider the fullest compensation for all those who have lost?

The population of West Cumbria will only be satisfied when the objective of zero discharge of radioactive materials is fully realised and the expenditure of this falls on Government.

We believe in West Cumbria if we are to retain this plant then Government and Parliament must ensure that adequate financial resources are made available to us so as to avoid all possible risks.

Mr Jenkin: The £50,000 fine on Greenpeace is a matter between them and the courts. I remind him that the judge expressly said he intended to leave them with the ability to protest peacefully. It was a warning to try to stop them interfering with the pipeline. What was really wanted was that interference would cease.

Compensation is a matter which must await publication of the reports so we can see whether there is any case for that.

As for zero discharge, I would not add anything to what I have already said about authorizations. The principle is as low as reasonably practicable. If properly enforced, and that is perhaps one of the approaches where a prosecution might lie, that produces an extremely low level of discharge indeed.

example, police officers, wardens, caretakers, or dwellings let on a short-term basis prior to redevelopment.

County councils were not included in the 1980 Housing Act because of the supposed specialized nature of the letting where a right to buy would clearly not be appropriate. However, the Government had become increasingly concerned about the position of county council tenants whose homes were no longer required by their landlords for operational purposes. There were a significant number of these.

The amendments would provide for the common treatment of county council tenants. It would bring county council tenants within the security of tenure and right to buy provisions of the 1980 Act, subject to most important safeguards on the operational requirements of the county councils.

The new clause gave the right to buy in circumstances which could be absurdly costly

# Effect of tour on Commonwealth

## SPORT

The proposed English Rugby Union tour of South Africa would have damaging repercussions throughout the Commonwealth. Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said during question time exchanges in the Commons. Anyone who underestimated the impact on Commonwealth sport seriously underestimated the current situation, he added.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) asked him what recent discussions had taken place with the President of the English Rugby Union regarding the proposed tour to South Africa.

Mr Macfarlane: My officials and I have had numerous discussions with representatives of the Rugby Football Union. The President is well aware of the Government's views on the proposed tour.

Mr Carlisle: While appreciating his obligation under the Glenageary agreement to drop sporting contact with South Africa, and his own anxiety to promote sporting contacts with the Commonwealth, will he confirm that at the end of the day it will be the President of the English Rugby Union and his colleagues to decide whether they tour South Africa or not?

Will he promise not to put undue pressure or coercion upon them?

Mr Macfarlane: The Rugby Football Union will decide in the spring of next year whether this proposed tour should take place next year.

I am in no doubt that the tour would have damaging repercussions throughout the whole Commonwealth. Mr Carlisle is entitled to his

unacceptable rate increases in some parts of the country.

Mr Edwin Curry (South Derbyshire, C) had caused laughter when he said the London borough of Lewisham had invested £100,000 of ratepayers' money in a commercial pantomime and then substituted for the name of the evil monster not that of William Livingston but Mr Norman Tebbit. Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Entirely in the spirit of Christmas (she said) would Mr Jenkin indicate which of the Opposition front-bench, including my fellow Liverpudlian, Mr Eric Heffer, he would like to nominate for the role of the good fairy?

Mr Jenkin: I would commend her talents as a draughtswoman and as a singer. I would like to see her on stage among some of the loony left councils, not least Lambeth and Lewisham.

The Bill I published yesterday (on rate capping) will bring some sense to those local governments who are bringing the local government itself into disrepute.

The Government's commitment to rate capping was reaffirmed by Mr William Whitely, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, during other exchanges.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Hampstead and Highgate, C) had asked: Would he accept that millions of people voted for this Government in order to bring in rate capping and they would regard it as a betrayal if we, or the Lords, try to repudiate it?

Mr Waldegrave: He need have no fear. The central manifesto commitment that the Bill will be carried through to law.

Later Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) asked Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing

and Construction, for confirmation that the Secretary of State did not intend to remove the vote from the disabled and unemployed as had been implied on the Jimmy Young show on BBC radio that morning, when the Secretary of State had compared their position with that of businessmen who, allegedly, did not have the vote.

Mr Gow replied that the allegation was absurd and without foundation.

Mr Macfarlane: I am aware of his anxiety and has drawn to my attention a number of specific examples in his constituency. Abuses have been taking place on ways of tightening controls.

I hope that early in 1984 we will be able to tighten up sufficiently to meet his demands.

Mr Macfarlane: On the first part he had some credibility; but his final sentence is nonsense. There is no statute by which ministers can withdraw passports.

In this country we only understand multi-racial sport. I am told that in South Africa sport has made great strides in integration, but recently the Minister for Education there made it clear that school sport will remain segregated. That underlines the deeper problem.

Anyone who underestimates the impact on Commonwealth sport seriously underestimates the current situation.

Mr David Clark (South Shields, Lab), for the Opposition: He has our full support. The attitude of the English RFU is extremely selfish. If they persist in this stupid tour they put at risk the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh in 1986.

While we would not approve the withdrawal of passports, would he use his best endeavours to persuade the Sports Council to tell the English RFU that if they persist in this tour, no money will be forthcoming from the Council to the RFU?

Mr Macfarlane: These are important topics. Above all I would urge all MPs to reflect upon the importance of Commonwealth sport and Rugby Union football as a major Commonwealth sport.

Royal Assent

The following Acts received Royal Assent: Consolidated Fund; British Shipbuilders (Borrowing Power); Petroleum Royalties (Relief); Coal Industry Staffs; and Milford Haven Conservancy.

Stokes: South Africa friendly to West

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## Duke wins battle to keep spoils of Waterloo

Brussels (Reuters) - The Duke of Wellington emerged triumphant from a new battle of Waterloo yesterday.

Senator Jean Humbert, a Walloon nationalist, withdrew a demand that a 100,000 francs (about £1,250) annuity paid since 1817 to the heirs of the original victor of Waterloo should be struck from next year's Belgian budget.

The present Duke said in England that the Senator's demand was "a perfect bloody nuisance".

Senator Humbert retreated after being told by Mr Willy De Clercq, the Finance Minister, that it would cost Belgium at least 70 million francs (about £865,000) to settle the matter once and for all.

The minister promised to review the case, but added that a change would raise tricky issues of international law.

## Royal plea for rare monkey

Geneva - The Duke of Edinburgh, as president of the World Wildlife Fund International, has appealed for the return to his natural habitat in Brazil of 24 golden-headed lion tamarins, one of the world's rarest monkeys.

The total population is estimated at fewer than 100.

The 24 monkeys, now in the possession of a wild-life trader in Belgium, were smuggled out of Brazil, which strictly forbids their export. The Duke's statement issued here described the affair as "scandalous".

## Fined for ghost in plumbing

Regensburg (AP) - A West German dentist and his wife were fined DM12,400 (about £3,200) for staging a poltergeist hoax. For several months an alleged ghost named "Chopper" finished patients in remarks emerging from plumbing fixtures in the dentist's office. The court ruled he was seeking publicity.

## Desert attack

Algiers (AFP) - The Moroccan Army has launched a big offensive in the Western Sahara, according to their Polisario Front opponents. More than 25,000 men, supported by armoured cars and aircraft were involved, a statement said.

## Gang held

Catanzaro (AP) - Police arrested 51 people in a crackdown on organized criminal groups in the southern Calabria region. The group was alleged to be responsible for 31 murders, four kidnappings and other criminal activities.

## Bus rescue

Vaduz (AP) - Liechtenstein has introduced cheaper bus fares to make public transport more attractive to those who use the 13,498 cars in the principality. The aim is to reduce the damage to forests caused by pollution.

## High notes

Perth (Reuters) - An English entertainer, Peter Maxwell, is claiming a world altitude record for piano playing in a hot-air balloon after going through a medley of old favourites at a height of 5,926 ft.

## 10 women shot

Ankara (AP) - A farmer in Alibeyli village, east of Ankara, yesterday shot and killed his wife, three daughters and a woman relative and wounded five women neighbours. He then fled.

## Volcano erupts

Tokyo (AP) - Kusatsu-Shirane (7,095 ft), 50 miles north-west of Tokyo, erupted yesterday for the third time this year. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

## Siege broken

Khartoum (AP) - The Sudanese Government claims its army has broken a rebel siege of the southern town of Nasir, killing 480 rebels. The attack on the town began last month.

## Correction

Protesters in Damascus were barred from routes to the American and French embassies, not to the Israeli embassy as reported on December 14. There is no Israeli embassy in the Syrian capital.

## President's first press conference since Beirut massacre

# Reagan says Marines will stay

From Nicholas Ashford Washington



Mr Reagan: Cheerful mood, stumbling replies.



Sir Geoffrey: To make a long overdue visit.



Senator Spadolini: Careful choice of words.

On three separate occasions he said that the presence of the four-nation peacekeeping force in Beirut had allowed progress to be made both in the Lebanese national reconciliation talks and in building-up the strength of the Lebanese Army.

However, despite his contention that domestic American politics would not have any impact on his policy towards Lebanon, he failed to dispel the widely held view that the Marines would be withdrawn well before next year's presidential elections.

Challenged to explain a recent remark by him that the Marines could be pulled back if there was a total collapse of order in Lebanon, he admitted that he had used "a bad choice of words". He had simply been referring to a hypothetical situation.

However, the President said that perhaps there was a complete change of course to

the place where we were no longer asked to be there, that would be a reason for bringing them out.

Mr Reagan attempted to use the conference to explain why it was necessary for the Marines to be in Lebanon. Although his explanation was somewhat muddled and at times inaccurate, he did manage to get across the message that their mission was to help bring stability to Lebanon, at assist President Gamayel to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

The President parried questions about a highly critical report by a House armed services sub-committee into the Beirut bombing which stated that "very serious errors of judgment" by senior officers on the ground and up through the chain of command, had left the Marines vulnerable to attack.

He did, however, speak in support of General Paul Kelley, the Marine Corps Commandant, who was accused in the

congressional report of intentionally putting forward misleading evidence to the sub-committee.

Mr Reagan defended the recent US-Israeli agreement on strategic cooperation saying that it was simply a reaffirmation of a long-standing relationship which should not alarm the Arab world.

This assurance has been accepted by the leading moderate Arab country, Egypt, whose Foreign Minister yesterday delivered a message to Mr Reagan from President Mubarak.

● LONDON: Sir Geoffrey Howe will make his first visit to the Middle East since becoming Foreign Secretary earlier this year. Egypt and Saudi Arabia will be the main stops on his itinerary, (Henry Stanhope writes).

News of the trip leaked into the Cairo press yesterday taking the Foreign Office by surprise

with final details still to be concluded.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State with special responsibility for the Middle East, has made two tours of the region since the British election last June which included Syria, Lebanon and the Gulf.

A visit by Sir Geoffrey himself has been long overdue. But other issues, particularly the EEC budget, have had to take precedence.

Syria and Lebanon are the most surprising omissions from the tour, particularly in view of current fears over the safety of the British contingent in the Beirut multinational peacekeeping force.

As it is, Sir Geoffrey will be going to the two leading moderate Arab states, leaving Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the US special envoy in the region, to represent the Western interest to the "frontline" governments.

● ROME: A date is awaited for the withdrawal of a part of the Italian contingent in Lebanon after the Government's decision for a gradual reduction was announced on Tuesday (Peter Nichols writes).

Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Minister of Defence, made his statement in reply to parliamentary questions on the Lebanon crisis. He was careful to ascribe the decision to a situation now requiring fewer troops on the ground than had been the case earlier.

The first phase had now passed and this, combined with good military planning, meant a partial withdrawal was feasible.



Bouncing back: Bob Hope, flanked by actresses Cathy Lee Crosby (left) and Ann Jillian, before leaving California for the Middle East, where he will entertain American servicemen. The comedian has been heavily criticized recently over the collapse of the Bob Hope British Classic golf tournament.

## Fear of nuclear war

# 'Mad' superpowers denounced

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

An impassioned plea for the United States and the Soviet Union to draw back from nuclear confrontation and return to the negotiating table was made by Senator Jorge Illueca of Panama, the president of the United Nations General Assembly, as he closed his 38th session. He told the two sides to end their "madness".

He also renewed an appeal to Presidents Reagan and Andropov to join other members at a summit meeting of the Security Council and reverse the arms race, which he said had gathered an irrational momentum of its own, going beyond the control and will of either side. "I plead with you, stop, and stop now," he said.

Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, the US representative, took a more optimistic view. She had particular kind words for the "Anglo-American alliance", emphasizing that, despite divergences on some issues, including the Falklands and Grenada, relations between the two were "just excellent".

● OTTAWA: Opponents of cruise missile testing in Canada

are going to have their day before the country's highest court (John Best writes). The Supreme Court has granted Operation Dismantle, a coalition of anti-nuclear groups, leave to appeal against an earlier decision by the Federal Court which upheld the Government's right to authorize the testing.

Unless stopped by the courts, the US Air Force will begin testing cruise in north-west Canada late this winter. Operation Dismantle says the tests will contribute to the arms race and increase the risk.

● BONA: Mr Peter Varkonyi, the Hungarian Foreign Minister, told Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his opposite number here, that Hungary regarded the Stockholm disarmament conference as very important, and he gave a clear hint that he would attend the opening on January 17 (Michael Binyon writes).

During talks which dealt largely with the security situation in Europe after the breakdown of arms negotiations, Mr Varkonyi said his country wanted to see a continuation of détente and good relations with West Germany.

● GENEVA: The controversy on deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 is marked by "lack of rational argument and too much emotion", Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General of NATO, said yesterday. He was answering questions at the Geneva Diplomatic Club (Alan McGregor writes).

Señor Illueca: "I plead with you, stop, and stop now."

## Poles will not see 'Day After' film

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

After weeks of backroom political wheeling and dealing the Polish authorities have decided against showing *The Day After*, the controversial American television film about nuclear war.

For some time it seemed as if the Government would confound Western critics of the film by giving it prime time treatment on Polish television, thus demonstrating that Warsaw Pact countries were also capable of informing their public about the hazards of atomic war.

The US network ABC offered the film to Warsaw for a relatively small sum - under \$10,000 by some accounts - and a series of private screenings were arranged. The audiences included members of the Polish General Staff who approved the idea of showing the film to Poles. Special video recordings were presented to the government spokesman and presumably found their way to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the head of state.

But on Tuesday, the decision against public screening was made, apparently after propa-

ganda specialists had studied the written transcript of the film. The film includes references to a mutiny within the East German Army and it is made clear throughout that the war has broken out because of Soviet aggression.

One of the final scenes, in which the voice of the President is heard to say that the Soviet Union suffered equivalent damage to the United States, was seen as particularly controversial, particularly sensitive to socialist audiences.

The American network had insisted that the film should be shown with the full text, without censorship. The only people to see the film on Tuesday were a group of invited Soviet journalists. Rumours persist that Moscow, too, is at least considering buying the film.

Meanwhile, for the first time, the commander of Poland's air defence forces, General Longin Lozowski, has revealed what "counter-measures" Poland is planning to the stationing of new cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe. Air defence equipment is being

prepared for the "complex situation".

"Advanced electronic equipment and in particular radio-location stations and automated systems for transmitting radar information - all this ensures conditions for the successful execution of the tasks of the missile forces and air defence interception," he said in an interview with PAP news agency.

The point was, he said, to speed up the Polish response to a Western attack and this required both coordination with neighbouring Warsaw Pact countries and efficient use of automated defence systems.

● MOSCOW: Broadcasting sources said yesterday that talks between ABC and the Soviet authorities over *The Day After* had been going on for several weeks without success. There was now little chance that the film would be shown in Russia (Richard Owen writes).

The film has been seen widely in the higher echelons of the Soviet political and military elite, sources said, but the Kremlin was against allowing ordinary Russians to see it.

## Christmas in Bethlehem

# A shortage of good will to men

Surrounded by an overwhelming majority of Jews and Muslims, Christmas for Christians in the Holy Land - the place where it is all began in a Bethlehem manger - has taken on a beleaguered air, redeemed more by the authenticity of the locations rather than any inspirational quality they may still possess.

Bethlehem, sometimes referred to grandiosely as the Sheffield of Palestine because of its preponderance of small workshops, is now warring its seventeenth successive Christmas under Israeli military occupation. As choirs from such unlikely spots as San Antonio and the Rand Afrikaans University burst into song during the televised celebrations, several hundred heavily armed Israeli soldiers will be on duty.

This year there will be an added sense of urgency as a new right-wing Jewish terrorist group, calling itself "Terror against Terror" (words which form the Hebrew acronym TNT), has recently launched a sinister campaign of booby-trapped grenade attacks against religious targets. Although Christian pilgrims have complained bitterly in the past about the distinctly unseasonal feel brought about by squads of Jewish soldiers swinging their UzL sub-machine guns, they may find their presence a distinct comfort in the circumstances.

Already this year Bethlehem's Arab University has been temporarily closed by military edict after a fierce anti-Israeli riot, while the town's main Palestinian refugee camp has been the scene of repeated, ugly stoning attacks against Jewish vehicles. Many of its inhabitants now fear that the Government is working secretly to shift it from its present site straddling the main road leading to the largest Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.

In case such grim matters should be conveniently overlooked in the spirit of the festive season, Mr Elias Freij, the town's portly and astute Arab Mayor, is on hand to provide the stream visiting journalists with a Christmas message subtly laced with the complexities of West Bank politics.

When I visited his ornate town hall, he was standing on the balcony telling ABC television about the urgent need for Jordanian-Israeli peace talks, while correspondents from *Newsweek* and *US News and World Report* hovered in a room near by. "Because of the frightening growth of Jewish settlements, the time for talking about peace is already past five

minutes to midnight", he said. "Palestinians in the West Bank are aware that very soon they will have nothing left to talk about".

Back in Israel proper, the second most favourite Christmas site of Nazareth has also been experiencing problems which speak little of peace on Earth or good will to men. On Monday Mr Moshe Arens, Israel's Defence Minister, told a parliamentary committee of his shock at recent statements by Jewish residents of the exclusive new suburb of Upper Nazareth denying the right of Israeli Arabs from the original section of the town to live among them.

The campaign to keep the area exclusively Jewish is headed by a local association whose aim, in the emotive words of one Israeli journalist, is to maintain their area of the biblical town *Arabeefrei*.

In an effort to counter any criticism from Christian institutions, the Jewish National Fund every year performs a service not encountered in most Christian countries by handing out free more than 3,000 Christmas trees to diplomats, journalists, churchmen and the host of United Nations peacekeeping bodies based in the area.

## Tomorrow: Christmas in America

Although the gifts are in fact well-appreciated and the cause of ribald comment as they are transported through the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where for most residents December 25 will be just another working day.

Other traditional customs abound, although most of the do-it-yourself basis that is the best guarantee here of a satisfactory result. Due to the rash purchase three years ago of a remainered, Taiwan-made plastic Santa Claus suit ("ideal for office party fun"), these for me now include a regular appearance before a large gathering of young children anxious to know why (a) Father Christmas has appeared from a flat sunroof rather than down the non-existent chimney and (b) whether he feels as hot as he looks, sporting a thick, ersatz cotton beard in temperatures of 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

But all-in-all, the abounding Christmas mood in the cities that the carols were written about is one of austerity combined with apprehension about the immediate future, especially the prospect of a new Middle East war.

Christopher Walker

## West Berlin gets back on the track

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

allies, but they have already indicated agreement.

The urban railway, once one of the most advanced and extensive in West Europe, is in a sorry state. With broken-down stations, old coaches and dangerously decayed bridges and track, traffic in the Western sector has all but come to a standstill, and only three lines are functioning.

After the war the allies, administering Berlin as a single unit, gave control of its railways to the Eastern sector. After the building of the Wall in 1961, West Berliners boycotted the system. Trains continued running, though no East Berliners were allowed to travel beyond the border into West Berlin. No modernization or repairs were carried out by the communist authorities, however, and the S-Bahn lost a lot of money.

Permission for the new arrangement has to be obtained first from the three Western

The West Berlin Senate does not intend to restore the whole of the derelict network, which is no longer necessary as the underground system, built up and administered by the West Berlin authorities, is already adequate.

Of the 47 miles of track still in use, only about 25 miles will eventually be used for passenger traffic, according to the Senate's plans, and repairs to these lines are to start.

The total cost is enormous: DM253m of it will be made available to Berlin by the Bonn Government.

The East Germans are estimated to make a loss of about DM100m a year on the S-Bahn at present. In 1980 they tried to dismiss scores of West Berlin employees of the system, which provoked a strike that the communist authorities were able to break.

## May death confirmed by judge

From Our Own Correspondent Rome

Dr Alessandro Jacobone, the judge investigating the Jeanette May case, gives no credence to allegations that she and her companion, Gabriella Guerini, could still be alive and in Latin America.

Reports that they might not have died will appear this weekend in a Milan publication. Jeanette May and her friend vanished from the town of Sarnano in November, 1980. Two bodies were found in January, 1982, at Podolia, near Macerata.

"The one certainty we have is that the death of the two women took place at Podolia and the remains found there were those of the missing women," Dr Jacobone said.

Jeanette May's identification was certain and the body was allowed to be cremated, he said. In Gabriella Guerini's case, the present tests were aimed at removing any possible doubt.

The judge said there was no truth that investigators had been sent to track the women down in Latin America.

A new inquiry was opened a year ago into the deaths. The judge refuses to comment on what progress he has made.

## Cash for Nazi conscripts

Mainz (AP) - Thousands of Frenchmen forced to serve in the German Army during the Second World War are to be compensated after France's decision to return German-owned land seized in 1944, officials said here yesterday.

Some 60,000 Frenchmen who were impressed into the Wehrmacht from the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, or their relatives, will receive payments

from a DM250m (£62m) fund.

The money, provided in the 1984 budget passed this month by the West German Parliament, will be transferred to the "Endowment for German-French Understanding" in Strasbourg in three stages. The foundation will decide how to distribute the money to the surviving soldiers and relatives of others forced into German uniform, the officials said.

**We could run out of money before you run out of excuses.**

Before you put this newspaper down, get a pen, your cheque book (or a postal order) and send a donation to the NSPCC.

It doesn't matter how much you send; the money will be used to give the chance of a normal childhood to children who've never had one.

Dr A. Gilmour, NSPCC, 30324  
67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS

"I'll really try to send money to the NSPCC this year."



# Sweden defies US pressure to return seized computers

From Christopher Masey  
Stockholm

Sweden yesterday nervously defied the request of Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, that it hand over more than 40 tonnes of American high technology impounded on its way to the Soviet Union.

After a report yesterday by the War Material Inspection Board, which stated that computer equipment in various containers seized by customs men here over the past month could have a military use, the Swedish Government announced last night that the equipment would be kept in Sweden indefinitely.

The move is understood to have been prompted by annoyance among Mr Olof Palme's Cabinet at the intense pressure put on Sweden to return the equipment to the United States.

This was brought into the open at a press conference in Washington on Monday, when both Mr Weinberger and Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, said Sweden should send back the computers to the United States, their country of origin.

On the same day the Soviet press agency Novosti issued a statement in Stockholm asking contemptuously: "How is it that some people give way so easily to American attempts to dictate policy to an independent nation?"

Mr Palme yesterday opted for a middle way out of the dilemma, choosing to assert Swedish neutrality while at the same time bowing to US demands that the high technology should not reach the Soviet bloc.



Mr Palme: A middle way out of the dilemma.

One of the options being considered by the Swedish Government is that the equipment be destroyed. However, the move has been postponed because of feared American economic retaliation.

This could include a ban on the export to Sweden of US high technology needed for Sweden's new fighter, a project on which could depend the survival of the country's independent aerospace industry.

It could also mean a ban on the projected sale to Sweden of Sidewinder missiles.

The computer equipment, which US officials claim is capable of guiding missiles, was sent to Sweden in various consignments, the main one having been landed at Helsingborg last month from the Swedish cargo ship Elgaren.

US customs men had previously obtained a court order for the removal of three containers of equipment from the ship just seven minutes before it was due to leave the West German port of Hamburg.

Four more containers stayed on board the Elgaren and were at Helsingborg, where they were put under armed guard until their contents could be examined by the War Material

Inspection Board, which has to approve all arms exports from Sweden.

Further finds of related equipment were made at Malmö and Stockholm, and another case of computer equipment was impounded by the Finnish authorities at Helsinki airport, indicating the extent of the high-technology smuggling operation.

According to Swedish customs, the man behind the operation is Herr Richard Müller, a West German businessman. In 1981 Herr Müller was blacklisted by the US authorities and recently in Lubeck he was charged in his absence with illegal export of high technology.

US customs agents closed in on companies in Colorado and West Germany yesterday, arresting two people and seizing "critical" technology alleged by them to be illegally sold to the Soviet Union (AP reports).

Among the items the International Consulting Group of Englewood, Colorado, is accused of selling illegally to the Russians are devices used to detect and measure nuclear explosions and another used to etch microcomputer chips.

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## EEC helps blind to feel their way

From Ian Murray  
Brussels

The EEC took time off from its working yesterday to promote a scheme which shows that the Community can do something important successfully. It is a scheme to help the 500,000 blind or nearly blind people living in the Community to find their way around.

Essentially it is a system of creating town maps which can be read with trained fingers. Pressed into heavy-duty plastic, these maps allow blind people to find their way round a strange city without the need of a guide or for asking the way in a foreign language.

The idea is more than 20 years old, but it has been slow to make progress because of the great difficulty in agreeing on standard symbols all blind people could understand. It was to overcome this problem that the help of the European Commission was sought.

The result was a symposium in Brussels six weeks ago, which resulted in that rare EEC commodity - total agreement. The symposium's report notes modestly: "Never before in this context had such complete harmonization of divergent viewpoints been achieved within the space of three days."

An amalgam of different systems has been adopted by the EEC, though many of the basic signs which have been worked out in a trial project in Nottingham, have been accepted now as the European norm. Dr Graham James, director of mobility aids in Nottingham, was able to point out many of the basic difficulties - such as how to make sure the map was held the correct way up.

## Yugoslav has £4bn art hoard

Zagreb (AFP) - Yugoslavs have just learnt to their surprise that in a socialist state, an individual possesses a private art collection valued up to £4,140m, the equivalent of one third of the country's entire foreign debt.

Mr Ante Topic-Mimara, aged 86, was for many years a close friend of Marshal Tito. His collection of 3,864 items, includes a staggering number of paintings attributed to such masters as Goya, Holbein, El Greco, Manet, Michelangelo, Raphael, Rembrandt, Renoir, Rubens, Titoretto and Titian.

Many curious art critics, faced with such treasures, claim that most of them are fakes. But other art lovers have another theory.

They point to the fact that in 1948 Mr Topic-Mimara was put in charge by Tito of finding and returning art treasures stolen by the Nazis during the wartime occupation of the country. He discovered many of them stored by the Allies.

Several art critics here have wondered whether Mr Topic-Mimara's collection contains items seized from the Yugoslav royal family and rich Yugoslav businessmen which have vanished without trace.

His answer to all his critics is a defiant: "I'm not a thief, and the way that I have collected my art treasures is my own private affair."

The Yugoslav authorities appear not to be worried about the origins of the Topic-Mimara collection. They have just spent 500 million dinars (about £2.75m) - in a country where there is not much loose cash about - on refurbishing a seventeenth-century monastery to house the collection temporarily.

## Managua believes it has beaten Reagan

From Alan Fontana  
Managua

Nicaragua believes it has successfully beaten the US-backed Reagan administration's strategy against the revolution, and now hopes to deliver a severe blow to the US-backed anti-Sandinista contras.

Commander Enrique Whitelock, a member of the ruling junta, said 2,000 contras had infiltrated the northern provinces of the country, but that the coming weeks would be a battle of great importance.

Representatives of the rebels in neighbouring Honduras have long been forecasting a Christmas offensive, apparently against the key economic objective of the Nicaraguan coffee harvest. The contras were understood to have been told by Washington that a dramatic success was needed if CIA financial backing was to continue.

Sources close to the junta said 2,000 insurgents were a larger and more concentrated force than the contras had previously marshalled.

Senior Roberto Sánchez, the Nicaraguan Army's spokesman, told international volunteers, who have arrived in their hundreds to help to harvest the coffee: The danger is everywhere. The zone of combat is virtually the entire northern border.

Amid reports of large convoys of government troops and tanks leaving the capital by night on the northern highway, Commander Whitelock said: "The immediate task is to deliver a strategic blow to the counter-revolution. We have launched a big offensive to

beat the contras' Christmas offensive."

When senior US diplomats in the region voiced profound scepticism of the Sandinistas' sincerity, they found attitudes had changed. The contras' counter-offensive made it clear they did not share the US view.

Reaction in Nicaragua was that the United States had been successfully outmanoeuvred diplomatically. Senior US officials declared that the diplomatic war had been won. But Sanja Sanchez, a member of the Sandinista Military High Command, was more cautious. He said Nicaragua was a "breath"

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Missiles and mistletoe: Father Christmas visiting a Rapier anti-aircraft unit in the Falklands with a sack of gifts for the crew (from left) Gunners Kelvin Kelly, Andrew Welsh, Andrew Griffin and Sergeant Philip Morris.

## Chile 'could go way of Nicaragua'

From Florencia Varas  
Santiago

The blackout which left much of Chile without electricity for several hours last night - the first since the military takeover - has raised fears here that the country may be in danger at a leftist upheaval similar to that in Nicaragua. The fears are based on the scope of terrorism acts in the past few months and the Government's rigid determination not to quicken the pace of a return to democracy.

"In Chile, the deadline for a democratic process along the lines of Argentina is quickly coming upon us, and it is this which those in power do not wish to understand," Señor Ricardo Lagos, president of the influential Democratic Alliance, told *The Times* in an interview.

"If a democratic 'opening' doesn't come quickly in the country, the social tension resulting from 30 percent unemployment is going to get worse, and every day, make a more explosive situation which could turn into a process similar to what happened in Nicaragua."

According to the 45-year-old economist, former employee of the United Nations and leader of the largest opposition group in the country (the Alliance groups sectors from the right, Social Democracy, Christian Democrats and Socialists), President Pinochet has already played all his cards.

Señor Lagos said the strategy of the Democratic Alliance in coming months will be to organise a complete mobilisation of the country to culminate in a national strike. If this is successful, the government will be forced to sit at the table and talk seriously with the opposition.

"We shall sit down to negotiate with the armed forces only when they agree to accept the Alliance's three fundamental principles - Pinochet's resignation, the installation of a 18-month provisional government, and freely held elections for a constituent assembly."

Referring to the possibility of armed revolution, Señor Lagos said: "It isn't appropriate for the Chilean reality. Fidel Castro is right when he says that guerrillas are not for South America. Chile, because of its homogeneous population, its past democratic tradition and its high level of education is different from the rest of the continent."

He said the Alliance would continue to work for a situation where the "extremist" sectors would be able to co-exist with the rest of the population.

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## Ray of sunshine for disillusioned Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, arrived back here yesterday from a lightning trip to Paris, where he discussed the problem of Spain's application to join the EEC and Basque terrorism with President Mitterrand.

He believed he had secured French help in Spain's membership of the EEC, and that he had secured the position-taking of the German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who would early on in the negotiations with Spain's Prime Minister González.

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## Briton's body in Seme

From Our Correspondent  
Paris

The missing body of Robert Graham, a British businessman, was found in the Seme river, police said yesterday.

Mr Graham, aged 45, was reported missing from his hotel on November 25. Identification of the body was difficult, but it was confirmed by a wrist-watch identical to one owned by Mr Graham, and a card from his hotel was found in the clothes.

Police were trying to find out whether Mr Graham's death was linked to that of Neil Campbell, an ICI economic expert who was found drowned near a French Navy shipyard in Brest, in Brittany, on December 2. He had also disappeared from his Paris hotel a few days earlier.

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## Pretoria tries to charm its enemies

From Michael Haggerty  
Johannesburg

The meeting between P. W. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, and senior Mozambique ministers in a royal guest house in Swaziland on Tuesday has strengthened the view that Pretoria's uneven approach to coexistence with its black-ruled neighbours is entering a conciliatory phase.

The meeting came only a week after South Africa's offer to begin from January 31 disengaging those of its forces which operate from time to time inside southern Angola, and the Swaziland took the view that its offer was not a sign of weakness.

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## Former Korean minister may get 10 years

Seoul (AP) - The prosecution yesterday demanded a 10-year sentence for Mr Yoon Ja Dong, the former Transport Minister, and terms ranging from one to 15 years for 21 other defendants in a trial arising from one of Korea's biggest bank scandals.

Mr Yoon, a retired air force chief of staff, was accused of receiving \$1.8m won (£70,000) in bribes from co-defendant, Mr Kim Chul Ho, a leisure industry tycoon, in return for favours.

The prosecution asked that Mr Kim be jailed for 15 years on various charges.

Mr Yoon was the first former Cabinet member from President Chun Doo Hwan's government to be indicted on criminal charges.

## Moscow fears bloody Afghan anniversary

By David Cross

The Soviet and Afghan authorities in Kabul are steeling themselves for what they fear may be a spectacular demonstration of guerrilla firepower to coincide with next week's fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion.

According to well-informed Western diplomatic sources, the capital has been unusually quiet during December. This contrasts sharply with the situation in recent months when the mujahidin staged frequent attacks, often with mortars and rockets, on targets like the Soviet Embassy, Radio Afghanistan and troop headquarters.

The sources believe the rebel fighters may be using the lull to infiltrate the city, ready for a big

operation to mark next Tuesday's anniversary. There have been several reports to this effect, the sources say.

## Turkey arrests two foreigners for car bombing

From Our Correspondent  
Ankara

A Syrian and an Afghan have been arrested in connection with the explosion of a hooby-traped car here yesterday.

Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, confirmed.

It was not clear, however, whether the unidentified suspects were also charged with responsibility for the explosion of another car with explosives in Izmir last Monday.

The Ankara blast exploded in the residential district of Bahçeşehir, where several senior politicians live.

## US still gives most to Harare despite aid cut

From Our Correspondent  
Harare

The United States will probably continue to be Zimbabwe's biggest aid contributor through 1984, despite the recent cut, diplomatic sources said.

State Department officials announced on Tuesday that the aid programme would be cut by half to about \$40m (£20m) from \$80m (£40m) in 1983.

They denied the charge that the cut was a punishment for Zimbabwe's political squabbles with Harare, though the aid of areas of concern has been growing for several months.

The Reagan Administration is known to have been angered by Harare's condemnation of the 1982 Rhodesia election, and its support for the guerrillas.

## Flying in the face of Zimbabwe's future

From Our Correspondent  
Harare

The curious sight of a South African Air Force jet flying over Harare Airport on Sunday last Sunday when the Zimbabwean Air Force was "hidden" behind a

hangar so as not to offend the new black African government, is a sign of the SAA's continued presence in Zimbabwe.

According to the SAA, the jet was flying over Harare to deliver mail to the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe.

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To bear the name Supérieur the wine must be of a higher quality than that of ordinary Bordeaux.

# "PRETENTIOUS, MOI?"

This wine is a blend of both Merlot and Cabernet grapes. It has a full flavoured rich taste, and is ready for drinking now. So, please, don't lay it down.

Bordeaux Supérieur has a higher natural alcohol level than ordinary Bordeaux and is from vineyards growing fewer grapes per hectare.

This is a Bordeaux Supérieur from a cellar where the wine-maker has won gold medals at the last 3 national Paris competitions and 2 golds at the International competitions in Bordeaux.

Stowells of Chelsea have a Selection of 9 Wine Boxes including an Appellation Contrôlée Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine and an Anjou Rose.

Stowells of Chelsea  
WINE BOX



## SPECTRUM

## A bumpy ride to fantasy

The Times Profile  
Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl told me that what made him a writer was a most monumental bash on the head ("we had been delving for literary sources"). Before that he had been a square young businessman working for Shell, "going around with a furred umbrella, wearing a hat and things". But then came the rude conversion.

There was a silence in his sunny, low-ceilinged Buckinghamshire farmhouse while I digested this tale of the unexpected. One clock went tick-tic, tick-tic with the deliberate malicious advance of one of the characters in his adult stories about to brain someone with a frozen leg of lamb, or inexorably swelling with treacherous geniality into a loathsome human bee. But another clock went tickety-skippety, tick-toc, tick-toc like James whooping it up on The Giant Peach or Charlie skipping about the Chocolate factory.

For more than 30 years a renowned author of macabre short stories - *Kiss Kiss, Some Like You* - Dahl is now also one of the world's leading writers of children's books. *The Giant Peach* had a successful run as an opera at Covent Garden; *The Chocolate Factory* was made into a film with Gene Wilder, and two more, *Danny the Champion of the World* and *The BFG*, will go into production soon.

His latest book, *The Witches*, was published recently. It blows the whistle on modern witches who look just like your schoolteacher or respectable aunt, but secretly they are bald, their spit is blue as bilberry, and to the little boys smell of dogs' droppings, fresh dogs droppings.

Could such a persistently fertile imagination have been induced just by a bash on the head?

Oh, yes, he said. He had been in the RAF, in the war flying out of Libya in a Gloster Gladiator and it had hit the ground at 200mph, bashing his head off the reflector sight and flattening his nose. Having until then produced only dogged schoolboy letters, his first letter home from hospital was brilliant. He was a writer. A squashed one, but a writer.

Dahl is a very tall man with some of the stooping, anxious courtesy of Alastair Sim playing a children's

author, and much of the casual authority of the officer class.

Now 67, Dahl's life parallels in a curious way two strands of his fiction. It was full of adventure and scrumptious surprises: a 15-page children's story, *The Gremlins* (he invented the word), published in 1942 while he was a young air attaché in Washington, was such an astonishing success that he became frequent guest of Eleanor Roosevelt and FDR at the White House. This useful entrée was exploited by the boys at Whitehall who made him a spy - on the Americans. And he married a film star, Patricia Neal.

But his life also suffered blows from a particularly malicious fate.

His seven-year-old daughter contracted a rare form of measles and died. His young son was hit by a taxi in New York and suffered brain damage, and the story of Dahl's long struggle to help Patricia Neal recover from two massive strokes is well known. He's had many operations on his spine, a legacy of his plane crash.

## Fantasy is very different from fiction

Storytellers are proud and rather defensive craftsmen. Says Dahl: "Novelists write from personal experience which they then just fictionalize. All of them, without any question! But we are talking about fiction, which is very different from fantasy." Children's storywriters, perhaps mindful of the severity of their shrill-voiced clients, would not like to admit to any intellectuality. So a blow on the head is a more satisfactory literary source than Belloc, which did influence him.

And Ambrose Bierce. The first adult book that gave him the creeps was *Can Such Things Be?* "Quite a good title," Dahl said, with envious approval.

"The real stylistic influence was Hemingway," Dahl said. "The short



Dahl pensive: "The real stylistic influence was Hemingway." Photographs by Suresh Karadia

sentence, use of adjectives. I knew Hemingway well.

"The great maxim he gave me was 'When you are going good, stop writing'. Terrific, because then you can pick up again. Old Hemingway gave me that advice and said it was his invention and I told it to Henry Moore who doesn't live far from here, in Hertfordshire, and I said this must be the same with your work when you are going good, chipping away at whatever. 'Exactly' he said. 'But it wasn't Hemingway,' he said. 'I've got the book by my bed'. So the old boy went up to his bedroom, upstairs two at a time and brought down *Conversations with Goethe*. Goethe had said the same thing!"

He smiled at the notion that this trade secret was shared by so many disciplines and generations.

"I don't know where my ideas come from. Perhaps my Norwegian background is an influence. Plots just wander into my head. They are like dreams, one is terrified of losing them. Once I stopped the car and got out and wrote a word or two on the dust of the boot lid so I wouldn't forget an idea."

He spoke of the difficulty of writing children's stories, of getting it right.

"My theory," Dahl said, "is that by the time a person becomes skilful enough at his writing trade he is usually in his 30s and really has forgotten what it's like to be a child. He has lost touch with it even if he had got children of his own."

How did you manage to keep contact?

"Oh I'm a bit of a jockey fellow you know, childish on one side of me."

The characters in Dahl's adult stories are vengeful creatures, generally scoring over the other moral lepers. In one, "Pig", an innocent young man, a lapsed vegetarian, is slit up for sausage meat.

"That is an odd story," he remarked, almost as if he had not written it himself. "It's an anti-human being story."

Unlike children's stories which are full of exuberance and optimism, is Dahl expressing a kind of disgust with adults?

"I think you can't help that after a time. Unless you are doing a P. G. Wodehouse. There is an enormous difference between a child who is primarily innocent and an adult who has become venal and greedy and everything else. You know as well as I that most adults are not very likeable people. I mean, Christ, we wouldn't have six wars going on right now if they were. They are not likeable people."

This brought us to the new field entered by Dahl recently with catastrophic results: political controversy. Asked in August to review *God Cried*, an account of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, for the *Literary Review*, he plunged into a headline attack on all Israelis, and to many it appeared an attack on Jews.

## 'Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs'

Dahl still gets abusive telephone calls. School librarians have written to say they have taken his books off their shelves, and he showed me a letter from a Leeds councillor who had sent back his child's copy of *The Enormous Crocodile*.

A close inspection of Dahl's review, entitled "Not a Chivalrous Affair", reveals a curious stylistic affinity with his children's stories. It is in fact a tale of a chivalrous young airman - Dahl

himself - flying over Lebanon and allowing young ladies in white dresses down below, drinking wine with their pilot boy friends, to run for cover before strafing the enemy airfield. Then when the Israelis plunge, without chivalry, into this same territory 40 years later they must be routed like the witches. Exuberantly! Indiscriminately! "Shove them all in the dock with handcuffs on! You will become violently anti-Israeli when you read *God Cried*. You simply won't be able to help yourself," he wrote.

Dahl, the fiction and the fantasy writer, had refused to observe the conventions of international political debate.

Why not? "I don't care about them. You don't do things by halves."

He said he was "cross and angry" that people should accuse him of anti-Semitism. "I am not in the least anti-Semitic. And there is nothing racist in my books."

But didn't he appear to be inviting the Arab nations to rise up and annihilate Israel?

"I should have said that the Israeli Labour Party was violently against this, and given them credit for it. But it was written so fast and so emotionally. But that's beside the point. The fact remains that there were about 24,000 people, mostly civilians, killed in that war. I am angry that you cannot protest against this kind of thing without being called anti-Semitic."

He pointed out that his story *Genesis and Catastrophe* was "a cry from the heart" at the bitter irony that in the Schiklgruber family Adolf was the one male child who did survive.

He has now turned to less explosive matters: he is working on sketches of his school days.

Peter Lennon

The Witches is published by Jonathan Cape at £6.50.

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## Gripping yarns on TV

In 1980 the BBC dipped into its pocket with reckless abandon and sent seven journalists across the globe to make *Great Railway Journeys*. I landed up in Peru, where I spent a lot of my time thinking that the behind-the-scenes drama of making a TV film was better value than what got on the screen. Brian Thompson landed up in India, where he must have had exactly the same notion as he chugged up and down the sub-continent, because he has now written a play called *Turning Over* which is all about a film crew and a presenter who are sent out to India to make a programme.

It's currently on at the Bush Theatre, very funny, very well acted, etc (which I can safely say I have never met Mr Thompson). But the curious thing is that the day after I saw it, I flew out to Jordan for four days with a BBC film crew and spent most of the time wondering if I was in real life, television or a Brian Thompson play. I wasn't really with a film crew, I suppose, but following one; I've become involved with a programme about the making of the latest David Attenborough natural history epic, and the Attenborough outfit were on their very last foreign location trip after three years of rushing about.

No wild life was involved, oddly enough. They wanted to film the earliest settlement of man they could find. There were four possible candidates as sites: two in Iraq and Iran and thus too dangerous, one in Turkey but totally unphotogenic and one in Jordan. The trouble with the Jordan one was that nobody knew much about it except its name, Beidha, and the name of the woman who discovered it in 1956 and excavated it, Diana Kirkbride. Was it worth going out to film? The producer's answer to the problem, which would never have occurred to me, was to ring up Diana Kirkbride and ask her: it is worth filming?

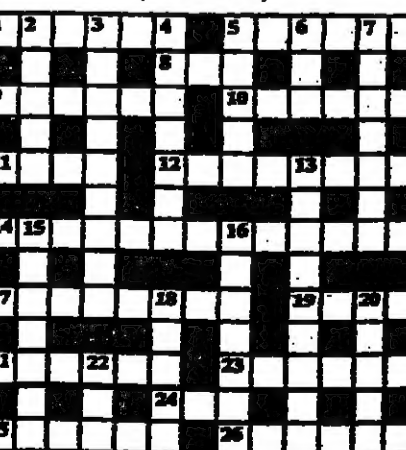
The answer was a massive Yes, so much so that he promptly decided to ask her out as well. And that is how she and I came to be standing side by side in a rocky valley in the Jordanian desert last Tuesday, watching David Attenborough squat in the 9,000-year-old ruins.

"These neolithic men," he told the camera, "found that instead of wandering in search of crops, they could keep the seeds and scatter them on the ground to grow next year. They had turned from being nomads into farmers..."

"Hold it," said Dickie, the sound man. "We're getting birds."

You wouldn't think you could get sound pollution in the desert, but there above us, high over the cliffs, wheeled four or five ravens making harsh black noises. We shouted at them to go away. We told them we were the BBC and ordered them to shut up. We threatened them with David Bellamy. It was then the Diana Kirkbride turned to me and said: "I don't know anything about television, but it does seem odd that wildlife can be such a nuisance to people making a wildlife film."

Odd is not the word. The only reason I was there was that I was making a TV programme about the making of a TV programme. The only reason that nobody has heard of Beidha is that Diana Kirkbride does not seek publicity - in other words, nobody has ever made a TV programme about it, or her. The only reason we didn't continue filming when the ravens finally flew off is that the Bedouins' sheep and cockers than started making a noise - there was a Bedouin encampment right behind the archaeological site, with herds of goats coming and going like commuter trains. The Bedouins represented a far more ancient way of life than the one we had come to film, but we were not there to film them or ravens or Diana Kirkbride, so we didn't. Given the chance, I think I'd film Diana, especially after I overheard her say: "Cole Porter came to see us when we were excavating Petra, and we got him up the cliff but we couldn't get him down again. Wheelchairs are very tricky on cliffs."

CONCISE CROSSWORD  
(No 230)

- ACROSS
- 1 Crucial moment (6)
  - 5 Systematic plan (9)
  - 8 Muscle twitch (3)
  - 9 Hinder (6)
  - 10 Archimedes' exclamation (6)
  - 11 Dressage circle (4)
  - 12 Headlong rush (8)
  - 14 Unseen power broker (8,5)
  - 17 Naked (8)
  - 19 Test (4)
  - 21 Loves deeply (6)
  - 23 Nutty chew (6)
  - 24 Curved shape (3)
  - 25 Fashionable (6)
  - 26 Early Stone Age tool (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Ardent lover (5)
  - 3 Bribe (9)
  - 4 Cousin's earlier boy (7)
  - 5 Operatic solo (5)
  - 6 Not him (3)
  - 7 Japanese emperors (7)
  - 13 Careless (9)
  - 15 Bullfighter (7)
  - 16 Fundamental nature (7)
  - 18 Literary composition (5)
  - 20 Expect (5)
  - 22 Spirit (3)

SOLUTION TO 229

ACROSS: 1 Fodder 4 Patter 7 Nile 8 Lingerie 9 Defector 12 Men 15 Plinth 16 Egrets 17 Ska 19 Algorithm 24 Crevasse 25 Crop 26 Fallen 27 Dorman

DOWN: 1 Funk 2 Dolce vita 3 Relic 4 Panto 5 Trek 6 Elite 10 Extra 11 Reel 13 Macabre 13 Nose 14 Apes 18 Karma 20 Lysin 21 Orad 22 Evil 23 Spurs

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Alan Franks discovers how the admen tune in to your wallet  
Jingling all the way to the bank

In the beginning was the carol, which begat the jingle, which begat colossal revenue for the manufacturers of cigarette lighters and Cyprus sherry. If that is a simplistic, not to say profane, version of how the season's advertising melodies came into being, remember that carolling is in essence the selling of a message, and some of the most enduring of the species are those with what is nowadays called a good hook. That may not be a phrase which would have sat easily in the vocabulary of a Stanford or a Holst, but the impulse to wrap an idea in a cadence was there none the less.

Whether you are celebrating the nativity, or a more tangible form of consumer durable, tunes are a vital ally. Small wonder then that the airtime occupied by jingles on television and radio increases by up to 20 per cent at this time of year. Contrary to popular opinion, the writing of these mini-numbers - few top the 40-second mark - is not so much a licence to print money as a punishing exercise in compliance with the demands of hi-tech production.

One of our leading jinglers, Richard Harvey, who has done much for the image of a certain tender-fresh coconut confection in a rich chocolate coating, describes the collaborative process like this: "Mostly the writers get copy from the advertising agency and say it's a load of rubbish which should be rewritten to scan. Then the agency says it must have all these words in because that's what they've agreed with the client. And after that, a fight tends to occur."

The fight is usually fierce and furious; the client's unwelcome package of key selling words versus the composer's already dented self-respect. It is deep in the heart of these brawls that the reason can be found for the relentless duplication of jingles. It is not that the composers are second-rate hacks incapable of invention - quite the reverse - but that there is just half a minute in which to set a nearly uniform

number of words to music; hence the repetition of shape and tempo. Knowing that George Martin, whose arrangements gave the Beatles such sophistication, has a few skeletons jingling in his musical cupboard, I asked him what it took to succeed in the form. "It's all a question of using a tiny number of notes for their most immediate impact," he said.

And then he started humming: "Murraymints, Murraymints, too good to hurry-mints..." that for me remains the best of all time. Yes I know, I'm rather old. It was written by a chap called Johnny Johnson, who's even older than me. Then I hummed: "Why make haste when you can taste the hint of mint in Murraymints," and he said: "There you are. See how it stays in the memory."

I had to put the rhetorical question - whether Paul McCartney, his most famous protégé, was now or had ever

been a member of the jingle-writing fraternity. "No," came the reply, "but he could unquestionably write them if he wanted to." Martin was too loyal to suggest that in fact many of Paul's hit records sound like glorified jingles, but a strong case could be made for the comparison. It proves the point that there is a bond between the jingle and the single, with the difference that the former is harder to bring off because of the intense compression demanded: theme, middle eight, reprise, all within a sixth of the compass of a standard 45 release.

Fourteen years ago, Martin and an American associate started a jingle agency called Air Ediel, which now has a select band of 14 composers on its books, with dozens more jingling up every week, asking to be taken on. Maggie Garard, the managing director, boasts that, between them, the members of the team can come up

with almost any style, from punk (for a certain bank that likes to say yes) through to light classical (for a sound system manufacturer with show-jumping connexions) and vox humana (for a chocolate bar with bubbles in it).

In an industry which has seen nothing but growth from the first days of commercial TV, it sounds as though there should be rich pickings for the composers, but earnings can be little more than peanuts in the jingle. On a flat rate basis, the writers can expect from £500 for a single tune to about £5,000 for a series. As Maggie Garard points out, you cannot forecast the catchiness of a jingle until it is launched.

At this point she too started humming: "Cook, cook, cookability, that's the beauty of gas..." that's a very good example of one that turned into a long-runner. It started as a Middle of the Road arrangement, then we had the Suzy Quatro version, and now the Vivaldi. All the same tune.

One thing for which the jingle receives scant credit is its influence on "legit" pop; this sector borrows hooks and learns techniques from its mini-cousins in much the same way that the film industry benefits from commercials.

In some instances the jingle can even burst from the chrysalis and become a hit in its own right, the most famous example being Roger Greenaway's "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing," which started life as a hymn to the merits of an American fizzy drink with world sales.

The form can also be splendid training ground for composers of more substantial music. Howard Blake, whose excellent album for children, *The Snowman*, has just been released, will not thank me for reminding him, but there is a certain light ale for whose popularity his music must take much credit. I can only hope he is so hard at work on an oratorio for Plácido Domingo and the New York Philharmonic that he will not be reading this.





# BOOKS

## Fiona MacCarthy reviews the life of John Gray, possibly the model for Dorian Gray The young decadent who saw the Catholic light

In the Dorian Mode  
By Brocard Sewell  
(Tabb House, Padstow, £18)

When in the year 2000 the neglected masterpieces of the past century are finally assembled, among them will be Park, John Gray's "fantastic story", a short and dreamlike novel of extraordinary brilliance, in which the hero, Dr Mungo Park, dies and reawakes and seems to find himself in an England of the future inhabited by a new race of black Catholics, who are technically tremendously sophisticated, while the rosette-like descendants of degenerate white Englishmen live underground in wonderfully excavated caverns. "A thoroughly weird business, typical of its author," wrote Eric Gill, Park's printer, in 1931. The true weirdness of John Gray, a Canon of the Catholic Church in Edinburgh, has still perhaps to be appreciated fully. But Brocard Sewell's *Life* is a very good beginning, a most fascinating story sympathetically told.

Dowson's) in the style of the French symbolists, a hanger-on of Wilde's, and possibly the model for the Dorian Gray of Oscar's novel. John Gray anyway made the most of the connexion, and signed his letters "Dorian". And, surprisingly perhaps, the book is even better on the life which was in many ways complete repudiation of all this surface glitter: the tiring, dull routines of Gray's parish work in Edinburgh, visiting the sick, comforting the mourning, and by way of relaxation playing golf with future bishops at St Andrews, which he once said, surely in a moment of euphoria, "competes with Jerusalem as a place I would choose to end my days."

Dominating Gray's weird story, and the link between his lives - lives which at first sight have little meeting-point at all - is the dark, svelte, foreign figure of his life-long friend Raffalovich. Marc-André Raffalovich, a rich Russian Jew brought up in Paris in intellectual circles, a homosexual, the author of *Uranisme et Unisexualité*, was, like Gray himself, a convert to Catholicism. He followed Gray to Edinburgh in 1905 and established a régime of characteristically perfect taste and order in his house in Whitehouse Terrace, near Gray's Rectory in Mornington, a haven of culture in the Scotland of the time. His famous routine of Tuesday dinners, Sunday

lunches, which Gray always attended, brought a touch of exoticism to those northern suburbs, with excellent grapes from Raffalovich's vine, Raffalovich's housekeeper, devoted Florence Gribbell, who when she was unable to sleep would compose menus, is another of the very congenial minor personae with which this finely-detailed book abounds.

Gray may or may not have been Raffalovich's lover (just as John was possibly but not quite definitely Dorian). Such conundrums, though in their way undoubtedly intriguing, end up by not appearing especially important. For what comes over strongly is a clear and moving sense of the enduring and indeed the redemptive possibilities of friendship quite apart from niceties of its sexual expression. The relationship between Raffalovich and Gray in its Edinburgh days was in fact extremely formal, a set exchange of visits between 9 Whitehouse Terrace and John Gray's study at the Rectory, Sunday night was Whitehouse Terrace night. A friend remembered later:



John Gray circa 1892

## A right to browse

Blackwell's 1879-1979  
By A. L. F. Norrington  
(Blackwell, £12.50)

Not all bookshops approve of browsing. But in Blackwell's of Oxford, it is a constitutional right, printed and posted on the wall. The rubric begins: "When you visit Blackwell's no one will ask what you want. You are free to ramble where you will, to handle any goods, in short, to browse at leisure. The staff are at your service when you need them, but unless you look to them, they will leave you undisturbed. You are equally welcome whether you come to buy or browse."

At my time at Oxford (just over 20 years ago) the undergraduate magazine *Menopontia*, a direct ancestor of *Private Eye* - Willie Rushton was its main cartoonist - printed a spoof advertisement headed "VASSILIS". It showed Blackwell's quaint old building with women in castles and fisher stockings looting against the walls. It was obviously intended as a bordello. And the caption underneath was unchanged from Blackwell's normal advertisement: "When you visit Blackwell's, no one will ask what you want..."

Oddly, neither the wall rubric nor Sir John's reminiscence is included in Sir Arthur Norrington's history of the firm. It is a dry read, full of those tribute-paying passages to which such histories are prone. ("He was one of the kindest, sweetest-natured and most cheerful of men, ready to turn a hand to any job. His neat handwriting was an example to everyone, and his maps, diagrams, and marginal drawings were used extensively in the production of Carter and Brentnall's Geography series *Man the World Over*."

But it is a valuable contribution to the history of book-selling - and of publishing too. (Basil Blackwell launched the annual series *Oxford Poetry*; published Edith Sitwell's first three volumes of poems; the first of Wilfred Owen's poems to appear outside periodicals; Graham Greene's first book, *Babbling April* and Enoch Powell's *First Poems*.) The founder, Benjamin Henry Blackwell, opened his shop at 59 Broad Street in 1879. His first catalogue included Aldines and Baskervilles at 5s each, and a copy of Thomas Hall's *The Loathsomeness of Long Hair*... with an Appendix against Painting. Spots. Naked Backs etc. (Listed as VERY RARE, this was priced at 8s 6d).

The Right to Browse is one of the great benefits Blackwell's conferred on the Oxonian book-lover. The other was their wonderful clemency in the matter of presenting their bills. Benjamin Jowett of Balliol was already taking advantage of this in Victoria's reign: the folio *Diodorus Siculus* which he bought for 7s 6d in November 1879 was not paid for until March 1881. Sir John Betjeman recalls, of his leaving Oxford after failing in Divinity: *I wandered into Blackwell's: where my bill was so enormous that it wasn't paid till ten years later, from the small estate my father left.*

Bevis Hillier

## Another great game

A Hitch or Two in Afghanistan  
By Nigel Ryan  
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95)

In August 1982 Sandy Gall, known to TV-watchers, invited camera man Charles Morgan, sound engineer Tom Murphy and Nigel Ryan author of this book to lunch at Bertelli's in Charlotte Street (what a lot of plots have been hatched in Bert's) to discuss an expedition to film Ahmed Shah Massoud, a young resistance leader and his Mujahideen operating against the Russians in the Panjsher valley, north-east of Kabul in Afghanistan. Ryan, who has considerable experience in presenting TV news, was preparing to write a book about it, and knows his Kipling and Edward Lear, and was to produce a film and act as Quartermaster and Paymaster of the expedition. He wrote the specification - Sandy Gall asked for black underwear to show up the lice - and negotiated the budget with Central TV for something like £60,000.

The planning had to be secret because the expedition would have to make an unauthorized crossing of the Pakistan frontier. They chose as cover story the making of a tourist film about Swat, but this was blown when Gall was recognized in the plans by a man who proved to be none other than the Ruler of Swat. From then on there were snags of every description and at every turn. An unexpected ten-day foot-slog across a desert was one of them. Some TV crews may be commando trained, Ryan was not. Sandy Gall radiated confidence, but very soon they were all hungry, in spite of supplementary raisins and soup-mix.

This is a thoroughly readable, sometimes amusing and sad, but wholly absorbing story. Once or twice its pace slackens in point of physical progress it was always dead slow and Ryan was invariably last in the convoy, using his horse's tail as a ski-lift until spotted and scolded by the Mujahideen horsemaster.

In a book of 210 pages the party did not make contact with Massoud until page 100, by which time they had lost all their TV equipment. Sandy Gall remained confident that all would be well. Finally even he gave up hope; and I must say that I did too; and then the equipment miraculously appeared. Three of four weeks filming time had gone, but they made their film, saw some action and were bombed. Then they had to get back over the mountains and that was another hungry story, exacerbated by frayed tempers and a desperate shortage of cash.

The book deserves an index. Gontran Goulden

## Grove for the home

The New Oxford Companion to Music  
Edited by Denis Arnold  
(Oxford, £50)

The New Oxford Companion to Music, a refurbished version of Percy A. Scholes' original work, has to be *Grove* for the Home. At £50, or £37.50 if you nip in and buy it before the end of January, instead of £1,100 it is markedly cheaper. And it does take up rather less shelf room: two volumes, admittedly, but a mixture of critics whose names are familiar in the Dailies and Sundays and academics who are careful to confine themselves to learned journals. Quite a lot of the contributors are shared, a mixture of critics whose names are familiar in the Dailies and Sundays and academics who are careful to confine themselves to learned journals.

Librettists receive an even rougher deal. There may be a case, although I would not care to argue it, for leaving out Plavie or Meilnac, but to omit Da Ponte, Lorenzo, is inexcusable. What would Mozart have done without him? On the other hand anyone curious to know what Johnny Jungling had to do with Turkish music will find enlightenment. You cannot please all the people all the time. And at £37.50 the OCM is almost exactly the price of a single ticket to Covent Garden's *Otello* - also an opera by Rossini (1816), in case you did not know.

John Higgins

## Pevsner of the elm

Elm  
By R.H. Richens  
(Cambridge, £35)

Elm. Just like that. Not even a definite article, let alone a subtitle, and only the briefest of publisher's blurbs, as though this were not the sort of book that anyone could be seriously expected to buy.

Well admittedly £35 is a lot of money, even these days. But this is no ordinary book. It is a work of immense scholarship, the product of years of devoted research, and yet, even for the reader who knows little or nothing about trees, much of it is not just readable but fascinating.

The oak, the ash and, until its recent tragic near-obliteration by disease, the elm have for centuries dominated the English rural landscape. Of this great trio the elm has been perhaps the most loved and the most frequently serenaded. As Mr Richens remarks, to identify this tree with the English landscape has often meant to identify with an English escape.

But unlike the oak and the ash, the elm is not a native species. Correction. The Wych Elm, which flourishes mainly in northern England and on the

Welsh borders, made its own way here sometime in the aftermath of the last Ice Age. The more familiar Field Elm, of which there are many varieties, was brought here and planted either for decorative purposes or because of its splendid versatility as a raw material.

Since then, as this book reminds us, it has become absorbed not just into our landscape but into our history, art, literature, and even diet and medicine. Richens is an admirably eclectic chronicler.

He has been fortunate, if that is the word, in his timing since, when he first began assembling material some 30 years ago, he could not have foreseen that the elm would become an object of national concern and lament. Indeed he makes no more than passing reference to Dutch Elm Disease, observing that to have included it in detail would have seriously unbalanced the book.

To call it the last word on the elm might be misconstrued. But surely all that will now be needed is either an epitaph to record its final demise or a chapter recording how it was helped to survive. As Mr Richens believes, there is a reasonable chance it will.

John Young

## Getting id and ego right

Freud and Man's Soul  
By Bruno Bettelheim  
(Chato & Windus, £6.95)

"Freud," wrote Thomas Mann "writes a highly perspicuous prose. He is an artist of thought, like Schopenhauer, and, like him, a European author."

Bruno Bettelheim's brief, perspicuous and important book shows how Freud's English translators saw his work as

"science" and played down its humanist, philosophical tradition. The Greek psyche, the German Seele which the English standard edition refers steadily to as "mental life". Freud, Bettelheim suggests, "chose the term (Seele) because of its inexactitude, its emotional resonance."

Bettelheim gives several examples of words where James Strachey coined new Greek- or Latin-derived terms to represent words which in Freud

came from current, colloquial German. The puzzling "cathexis" in German is simply *Besetzung*, "occupation". *Schaulust*, pleasure in looking, desire to see, becomes "scopophilia". "Parapraxis" translates a witty word made by Freud from two others, *Fehlleistung*, from *Fehl*, an error, *Leistung*, an achievement; a "mischievement" as Walter Kaufmann suggested. The Greek words reify and distance descriptions of behaviour or feelings which in the German are still close to actor and observer, or patient and analyst.

Perhaps the most pervasive cultural influence of the translation has been the Latinizing of Freud's "three provinces of the apparatus of soul." In German these are *Ich*, *Ego* and *Über-ich*, rendered by Bettelheim *I*, *It* and *Above-I*, and by Strachey *ego*, *id* and *superego*. Bettelheim objects to these last on both therapeutic and larger aesthetic grounds. In therapy, he says, people say, and should say, "I am trying to understand why I did this." Not "My ego is trying to understand why I did this."

In *Freud and the Future* Thomas Mann spoke of Freud in the tradition of Goethe, Nietzsche, Schopenhauer. His formal, convoluted, complicated tribute plays on the word "I" or *Ich* throughout. He speaks of the "ancient I", *das antike Ich* of an Alexander, who was a God, of a Napoleon who said "I am Charlemagne". "Not," Mann repeats, "I resemble" or "I recall" but "I bin". Mann's peroration revealed to us ourselves, the nervous, isolated modern "I" and of how he saw his work of strengthening it as a cultural work, akin to the draining of the Zuyder Zee. "Wo Es war soll Ich werden" said Freud epigrammatically. "Where it was must I be." Mann's translator, bedevilled by Freud's changes of horses in midstream, talks of the "modern ego", a whole, resonant, responsive between the "I's of Alexander, Napoleon, Mann himself, and Freud."

"Where it was let there be ego." A retranslation could not undo the years of thought, felicitous as well as infelicitous, conducted with the aid of these too solid imaginary objects. All the more do we need books like Bettelheim's to keep us alert and supple, to remind us of the complex nature of language and translation, culture and history, the limitations of their power, the power of their limitations.

A. S. Byatt



Madonna and Child by Andrea della Robbia in the Metropolitan Museum, New York, from Carols for Christmas, compiled and arranged by David Willocks (Gollancz, £9.95).

## Tales of Abbot's Ale

Greene King  
By Richard G Wilson  
(The Bodley Head & Cape, £10)

It is generally a bad sign when you are reviewing a book if you fall asleep with the volume open in your hands. I am sorry to say that this happened to me twice in the course of reading this sound account of the East Anglian brewers, Greene King by a lecturer in Economics and Social History at the local University. No, I had not been drinking "Abbot" or "IPA", two of the strongest ales made famous by this splendidly independent outfit: it was just that some of the finer points of making, marketing, and mergers expounded here failed to absorb me as I had hoped.

Nothing wrong, you understand, with the genre of company history (I once earned a crust editing a weighty study of a Lancashire paper mill), nor is this anything other than highly competent or scholarly, but its subtitle ("A Business and Family History") led me to expect rather more in the way of human interest. Presumably as an act of family piety, it has been brought out by two publishing houses associated with the Greene dynasty. Sir Hugh (chairman of the brewery 1971-78), whose biography was recently published by The Bodley Head, is certainly enjoying a good innings this season.

The Greenes, like their infinitely richer Irish counterparts the Guinnesses (with whom they are connected through Sir Hugh's first marriage), afford another example of the classic progression from business and money, to titles and land, and then activity in the arts. The brewery was founded at Bury St Edmunds in 1806 by a draper's son, Benjamin Greene who went on to become a slaveholder and a newspaper proprietor. One of Benjamin's sons became an able Governor of the Bank of England; another, who was the first chairman of Greene King (merged in 1887) became an MP and was the father of a landowning baronet fond of hunting, shooting, yachting and practical jokes. Benjamin's youngest son, a hopeless failure, was the grandfather of the great Graham, who shared with his brother Hugh "a long held interest in sampling the beers of different breweries". GG is not the only novelist to be produced by the dynasty for Christopher Isherwood's maternal grandmother was a Greene.

In all fairness, Mr Wilson writes well about the various characters, not just Greenes, involved in the story - though as a Yorkshireman he cannot resist digs at "paternalism" - and has plenty to say about our changing drinking habits. The "business" side, however, is weighed down by technical details and statistics. One shares his relief when he chances on such items as the litigation over the overflowing urinal at the "Cock" in Castle Camps.

A worthwhile book? Up to a point, Sir Hugh.

Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd

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## Bits of the best of British fiction of the year

A Christmas Feast

Edited by James Hale  
(Macmillan, £8.95)

This Christmas fare, prepared by Macmillan to replace its long-standing *Winter's Tales*, has all the fascination of a first feast of quality goodies. Although there are still some excellent short stories, the bulk of the book is composed of chapters taken from novels which the editor takes to be the Best of British for the year. No one will have read them all (except I must suppose, those poor, exhausted Booker judges). So at the very least it's an excellent way of discovering what you've missed.

The piece from Russell Hoban's *Pilgrimage* amused me enough to send me out for the book. (I wish I could say it was on sale at my local bookshop, but no.) So all I can report is that a peculiarly unfortunate victim of a pogrom is calling on God for help, and is astonished to receive a vision of Christ instead. It's no use Pilgrimage insisting that up till this point he had always dealt directly with His Father, or

complaining "You're not the one I was calling." Christ replies: "I am the one who came though."

Another book I hadn't read and feel I now will is William Cooper's *Scenes from Later Life*. The title recalls Cooper's earliest work, which must surely have influenced both Armitage and Wain, but whose own reputation has trailed a little. This piece about the awkwardness between a middle-aged son and his 92-year-old mother-in-law, is written with warmth and pathos as well as a sense of human absurdity.

There were other intriguing snippets. I have been intending for some time to read Anita Brookner's *Look at Me* and was impressed by the cruel accuracy of her perceptions. The extract lets us in on a married couple, who invite a friend with them on holiday, mainly to demonstrate the perfection of their marriage, and hoping, at any rate, that a beggar at the feast will confirm they are indeed better off together.

Then, of course, there were the novels already admired, and now looked at mainly to

question the editor on the justice of his extraction. It seemed to me that I, too, might have gone for the interview with the formidable casual British Council lady in Malcolm Bradbury's *Notes of a Native Son*.

Probably stranded in the hapless Petworth, unmet, in the land of COSMOGLOT, the piece from Rushdie's *Shame* read magnificently. I was also pleased to recall what a very good book Maggie Ross's *Milena* had been.

Among the short stories, Muriel Spark's "Fortune Teller" is unbeatable; an old witch at her tricks again, she evokes exactly the right mixture of unease and laughter. Fay Weldon is probably better than anyone at portraying the precarious togetherness of family Christmas. How can an efficient woman not take her husband's gifts seriously?

In the nature of the game, there were books not there that ought to have been. The editor had not had the presence to look out Coetzee. And, perhaps because I've just been reading it with delight, I particularly missed John Fuller's *Flying to*

Nowhere. But there might surely also have been some Alan Silbitt, or Emma Tennant? By and large, though, a pleasantly digestible Christmas Feast.

Elaine Feinstein

Into the landscape of the dead  
Falls the Shadow  
By Emanuel Litvinoff  
(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

Kingsley Amis is on record recently as declaring he would no longer read any novel in which a gunshot did not ring out in the very first paragraph. Some surprises would await him in this one. The body that slumps dead over the first page of Emanuel Litvinoff's latest novel leads the reader into labyrinth of shadows, the

darkness of which is the shadow upon which the State of Israel has uneasily founded itself. Shomron, the laconic, Israeli detective has no difficulty in discovering the assassin Sincier. Apparently English, he is only too eager to declare himself. What becomes worrying is the motive that leads him to anticipate his own trial with such joy.

Shomron, is a Sabra, proud to throw off the anxious stance of the ghetto Jew, and his family troubles, including those of his brother-in-law, concern him as much as the case he is handling. Until, that is, Mossad takes a hand in his investigations; and we are taken into a world, as alien as another planet, which untold both the victim and his assassin with the numbers of Dachau. So it is we enter a landscape of the dead, peopled by ghosts who may yet be alive; and listen in on the madness and the morality of choices we have all been spared. This is a remarkable novel: incisive, always questioning; and never, for one moment, dull.

Elaine Feinstein

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Who needs enemies?

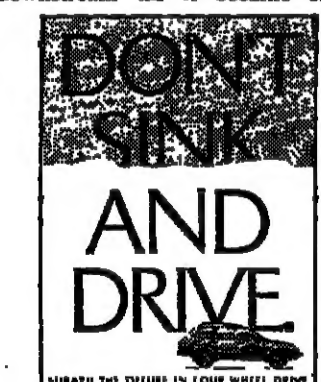
One of the last letters written by Tony Banks, the Labour MP for Newham, North West, before he resigned as chairman of the GLC's Arts and Recreation Committee was to George Levy, chairman of the Friends of Kenwood - the historic house near Hampstead Heath. In it, Banks takes a stern tone towards the Friends' efforts to persuade the Government to set up an independent trust for Kenwood. "I understand, of course, that the Friends of Kenwood will have a greater concern for Kenwood than for any other cause. But if their concern for Kenwood is so limited and so exclusive, does Kenwood need such friends? Do we, in our private lives, really need friends who will be friends to no one but ourselves? Such friends are too cautious to defend, or even attack, another than their chosen object of devotion. Their affection and dedication are real enough, but are they welcome?" He then goes on to quote the passage from Donne's *Devotions* that begins, "No man is an island..." Mr Levy remained calm under the weight of so many admonishments. He wrote back: "It is... our particular concern to look after the interests of Kenwood and its magnificent grounds, and in this regard it would be most helpful if Members of Parliament could find time to write constructive letters of help, rather than find fault with those of us who do unpaid work for the community."

### Late post

Yesterday, London's chief post office by St Paul's Cathedral, three of the four clocks were showing the wrong time. The clocks are more than a century old and because the post office is a listed building, cannot be replaced by newer models. In spite of the building's antiquity, a television set showing Post Office commercials has been installed on the serving floor. This was functioning perfectly.

### Fluid drive

Subaru, the Japanese car company, has recently been running an advertisement advising readers, "Don't sink and drive". Last week one of its salesmen, Peter Danby-Smith, had to abandon his Subaru after it failed to negotiate a flooded ford in Yorkshire. It was washed downstream till it became stuck



under a bridge. After it had been dislodged by a tractor and a breakdown wagon, Mr Danby-Smith found a rainbow trout on the driving seat. "But it wasn't much of a consolation," he says.

### Mass appeal

Andrew Palmer, head of the Foreign Office department which deals with the Falkland Islands and Britain's relations with Argentina, provided an end-of-term treat for his junior staff which was both entertaining and educational - he took a party of 24 to see *Evita*. Palmer and his deputy, Roger Westbrook, had found as the Argentine plebeians approached, that some of their staff did not really understand what Peronism was. Palmer said: "One of President Alfonsín's tasks now in working to solve the country's economic problems is to retain the support of the trade unions, many of which are Peronist-led. It's important to realize that Peronism remains a potent force. Everyone enjoyed the show very much and Palmer would like Andrew Lloyd Webber and/or Tim Rice to write a musical about Alfonsín's triumph, so that he can take a staff party to that too."

### BARRY FANTONI



"Mind you, Mario Lanza didn't have it all his own way to begin with"

**Cold comfort**  
Bristol has chosen a painting from Glasgow Museum for its Christmas card this year. It is called *The Day of Care, Winter View Greenock*, painted in 1904 by Patrick Downie and shows the very spot where the Scott Lithograph works probable closure and the loss of more than 4,000 jobs after Bristol's cancellation of its order for a £86m deep sea drilling rig.

# Auntie's festive low-de-low

David Hewson describes the danger signs for the BBC as it battles to regain its Christmas ratings

The BBC wants but one thing for Christmas: an audience as big and devoted to Auntie as it used to be. Try as the corporation might, the viewers have deserted it for the other side in droves. Tomorrow the tinsel and glitter-riden bandwagon of the Christmas schedules is rolled out in an attempt to win back these viewers. The rumour hotline within Broadcasting House currently has it that managerial toppings will shortly follow if normal service is not resumed and maintained over the holiday.

The corporation is genuinely bemused over why it should be doing so badly in the ratings. It has not exactly been scheduling a seven-part series on *The Life of the Lark* at peak time on Saturday nights, or producing such quintessentially diabolical drama of yore as the *Borgias*. Yet the figures remain doggedly rotten. For the week ending December 11, the BBC had one programme in the ratings top ten, *The Two Ronnies*, which came in sixth. The commercial network, with Channel 4, attracted 54 per cent of the total audience, eight points ahead of the two BBC channels.

A quick trawl among the BBC's rivals reveals an unusual accord over where the blame lies. "The scheduling has been lousy," according to one ITV executive. "When we came out with *The Winds of War* they did nothing against us on the first night. We pulled in the viewers and they have stuck with us. ITV has had a strong schedule, of course, but the BBC handed us a lot on a plate. Just look at Sunday nights - *By The Sword Divided* has provided no competition for us at all. And *Sixty Minutes* has been a disaster."

This is a viewpoint shared by the advertising industry. Young and Rubicam, one of the leading television agencies, says: "While much of ITV's success can be attributed to its strong programme line-up for the month (September), BBC's schedule in comparison was

undoubtedly its worst for some considerable time. The extent of ITV's dominance is shown by the fact that not a single BBC programme appeared in BARB's (Broadcasting Audience Research Board) listing of the month's top 50 rating programmes."

The BBC hopes that the holiday will provide some reversal of its fortunes. Its £10m package is as predictable as a Christmas Day menu, 90-minute films of yesterday's successes such as *Last of the Summer Wine* and *All Creatures Great and Small*, and new versions of existing light entertainment programmes. There may be scarcely a new idea in the whole thing, though that is not necessarily bad for the ratings; but one wonders if this desperate recycling stands much chance of success.

The ITV companies are far more worried about maintaining their lead outside the holiday period than winning a battle for kudos within it. Even if the BBC gains a majority of the Christmas audience, it is by no means certain that it will recover any ground in January. The behaviour of the audience last Christmas seems to support the commercial network's attitude towards the holiday; then the viewing figures fell by 12 per cent, partly because of the number of people using video recorders to watch rented films. With video ownership now around the five million mark, the trend is likely to continue this year.

The corporation cannot even comfort itself with the notion, current six months ago, that

television viewing itself is in decline. ITV's successful autumn, and the arrival of Channel 4, has actually increased the amount of time Britons spend in front of the set. In October, the average daily viewing per home reached 5.2 hours, 6 per cent more than in October 1982. The rise was wholly due to the commercial sector; viewing of BBC programmes fell by 6 per cent in the same period.

Had Channel 4 performed as well as it might, the news for the BBC would have been worse. But Jeremy Isaacs' organization is now beginning to find its feet, so the corporation's likely detriment, January sees the arrival of one of the glamorous mini-series, *The Far Pavilions* (while, oddly enough, Granada's literary adaptation of *The Raj Quartet* will go out on ITV 1) in a new scheduling policy. The result, placing Channel 4's more popular programmes together in blocks, should increase its present viewing share which, in the latest figures, stood at 5 per cent; although it may, of course, take viewers from ITV 1 instead of the BBC.

What is the BBC's reaction? Initially, it has been to bring up the shock troops. *Hi-de-hi*, which was once one of the corporation's most popular comedy shows, was dragged into the Sunday night schedules at least three weeks before planned in an effort to hold a few more viewers before *By The Sword Divided* thrusts *Cromwellian* English in front of a lukewarm audience. The gambit failed; *Hi-de-hi* has failed to make the BBC's own Top Ten, let alone that of the television community

overall. Should Christmas go the same way, one must look to changes at Broadcasting House.

There is a school of thought which says that the BBC should be above chasing ratings since it is principally a public service broadcasting system. This line of reasoning is insidiously attractive. The BBC's director of television programmes, Brian Wenham, was forced to admit recently: "We are financially unable to compete with ITV's blockbusters in the way some of us would like."

If the corporation cannot compete on expensive drama, which now costs about £250,000 an hour to produce, could it not concentrate on quality in preference to mass appeal?

Politics dictates otherwise. Next year, the corporation must enter into new negotiations about its future licence income. A new colour television licence of at least £60 a year is likely to be demanded by Broadcasting House. If its services can attract the regular attention of only about 45 per cent of the viewing public, the BBC's mandarins believe that they will come under intense pressure to justify their existence. For them, just as for the ITV companies, ratings have become an essential way of life, almost oblittering the fact that the BBC's reputation is almost wholly founded on programmes which are resolutely not of the common herd.

The corporation's potential January blockbuster, which has been juggled around the schedules after the fashion of a fading centre forward looking for the best place in a Fourth Division football team, is *Thornbirds*, the latest in a series of American mini-series, and by all accounts no better and no worse than its flaccid stablemates.

It is flimsy stuff around which to set a cliffhanger about one of the world's great broadcasting institutions, and a measure of the stormy times facing a BBC torn in several contradictory directions.

Ronald Butt

## Are the churches missing the point?

This is how the present life of man on earth, King, appears to me in comparison with that time which is unknown to us. You are sitting feasting with your ealdormen and thegns in wintertime, the fire is burning on the hearth in the middle of the hall, and all inside is warm, while outside the wintry storms of rain and snow are raging; and a sparrow flies swiftly through the hall. It enters in at one door and quickly flies out through the other. For the few moments it is inside, the storm and wintry tempest cannot touch it, but after the briefest moment it is calm, it flits from your sight, out of the wintry storm and into its again.

So this life of man appears but for a moment; what follows or indeed what went before, we know not at all. If this new doctrine brings us more certain information, it seems right that we should accept it.

It was in these words, according to Bede, that one of the chief men of Edwin of Northumbria answered the question the king put to each member of his council; whether they should become Christians. The midwinter imagery of this evocative story is a reminder that Christianity has always been principally about first and last things. Inevitably, it is also about things in between; about the conduct required of mankind on earth. How, logically, could a religion concerned with the essential nature and destiny of humanity be otherwise? But its claim to revelation of first and last things has been its mainspring and the power by which its teaching first won the western world.

Today, however, it is the things between, here and now, that are dominant in the teaching of Christian priests and ministers. Their concern is concentrated on the details of political, social and economic action, and that is why, throughout this year, the debate about the proper relationship of Christianity to politics has rumbled on, in the correspondence and other columns of *The Times*, and also widely elsewhere. Churchmen have been praised or blamed both for what they have said on such matters and also for being as involved as they are in them, irrespective of what they have said.

On no question have they been more heavily involved than in that of nuclear war. The Catholic hierarchy and the Anglican Synod have rejected demands from within their churches to support unilateral disarmament but (in search of consensus) both have moved well beyond the broad Christian imperative that nuclear "deterrence" is acceptable only as a means of maintaining peace through balance on the way to disarmament. They have entered the area of detailed political and strategic (rather than theological) argument, the Catholics criticizing the presence of cruise missiles in Britain and arguing for greater British control over them, the Anglicans calling for a commitment to "no first use".

The same tendency towards detailed political involvement is evident in church reactions to the running debate on the shape and dimensions of the welfare state and (particularly because of unemployment) to economic policy. It is, of course, self-evident that Christianity is a religion which should condition the action and thinking of anyone with the least claim to heed it. By its nature, it requires each individual to take responsibility when it is needed

for the well-being of others which must mean those in need and those without work.

But there is nothing, for instance, in Christian teaching which provides answers to the question when and whether the welfare of others is best assured by individual or communal action and, if by both, in what proportions. It can state the principle but cannot prescribe the means of practising it in social circumstances that are always transient. It can tell us that we should seek a society in which all can work, but it does not provide the science for achieving this. It cannot tell us, *ex cathedra*, whether work is better created by Keynesian economics or by relying on control of the money supply to defeat inflation.

Why, then, do churchmen increasingly express the imperatives of Christian principle in terms which imply, or even indicate openly, particular political action. I put the question recently to a prominent member of the Anglican priesthood who is himself much concerned with the social implications of his creed. He was remarkably honest and candid, his answer boiling down to something like this. Nowadays, when it is harder for churchmen to point upward to heaven (and he pointed) the ultimate questions are much harder to tackle. In a way, he said, the Anglican church is a very honest church and does not attempt to over-ride doubt with strong theological assertions, but tries to carry people with it in an age of doubt.

The implication was that the sociological concern of contemporary churchmen is, in part at least, a compensation for the uncertainties about ultimate questions in an age when, for so many, scepticism has gnawed at the fundamentals of faith. It is a phenomenon which I do not think is confined to one church.

Another Anglican priest spoke to me recently about the crowd of once-a-year attenders he expects at his church at midnight on Christmas Eve, of his uncertainty about how to address a crowd largely unknown to him, some of whom have come from the pub; of the fact that he has sometimes even been glad that there were one or two policemen among his congregation. Why do they go? They are, perhaps, like Bede's sparrow, coming in from the darkness for light and warmth and even searching in some way for a belief towards which the church, preoccupied with social action, is not always well placed to help them in an age which is not one of conversion.

The tendency of our time is for the clergy to allow respectable doubt on what used to be the unquestioned tenets of their creed, while holding with apparent certainty the vision of right and wrong as it might be perceived by the presenters of *Newsnight*. To change a 2,000-year-old conviction about marriage; to doubt parts of the Gospels is permissible. But it would not be respectable to question some of the obsessive ethics of the secular world.

Yet if churchmen have few certainties to offer about the fundamentals, about first and last things, what special weight is to be attached to their attachment to particular social and political prescriptions? Their danger is that of missing the main point. It is not, I think, for social and political instruction that the churches are crowded on Christmas Eve.

Jonathan Sale

## The Xfam way to a happy Oxmas

In the steam from the kettle, the flap of the envelope peeled up easily. It was an appeal for money, again. I like to check the children's letters to their grandparents, but I don't like it if it is often the content that makes me blush first.

"What I want costs £16.99," she wrote. "I am saving up for it - love, Rebecca. PS. Peter has got his BMX bike now so you needn't give me anything for that. But I am saving for some Star Wars spaceships. This is what they cost..."

There follows a catalogue of what it takes to equip Darth Vader's intergalactic fleet, each item in double figures and the total approaching three. My only consolation is that the youngest child makes no demands of a financial nature. That is because she is too young to write.

I corrected the worst of the spelling mistakes, added a full stop or two and revealed the flaps. It takes long enough to wheedle epistles to relatives out of them, without criticizing the one element powerful enough to induce them to put pen to Snoopy writing-paper.

There is probably no harm done. The grandparents do not complain. They do not send cheques to the full amount, either; but money does find its way into post office accounts.

Rather than stand in their way, I have decided to put on a more professional basis the traditional Christmas pastime of extracting money from relatives old enough to know better. For the benefit of my children, and yours, I have been working on a series of formula letters which should prove as effective as the versions falling through letterboxes from the more grown-up (and worthwhile) charitable organizations. They should be copied out in neat handwriting, incorporating a few deliberate misspellings to add pathos.

Dear Grandparent, I know that you have many demands on your resources at this time of year. It is for this reason that you will be helping the aid that you provide going straight to the recipient for whom it is intended, that is, me. I can guarantee this absolutely, and would

be happy to provide any account numbers or warning slips to this effect. With warmest thanks for your past and future support...

Dear Gran, We at Petfarm are proud of our unrivalled record of eliminating administrative costs. No funds at all are diverted into loss-making activities such as expenditure on paper and envelopes, as these relate to your last birthday gift, and the stamps are courtesy of Toytown (we trust that the postman's surcharge is no great inconvenience). With best wishes for a prosperous New Year...

Dear Nana, Would YOU like to sponsor a doll? For a modest weekly outlay, YOUR name will be inscribed on the underwear of a Barbie or similar. The doll purchased by YOU is kind donation. Without YOUR care, this doll would be left high and dry on the shelf of the toyshop. Wouldn't YOU like to bring a smile to its precocious little lips and rounded cheeks? All credit cards taken. Goodbye, and God Bless...

Dear Aunt, Please find enclosed a picture entitled *Car Crashing into Tomato Ketchup Storage Vat* or possibly *Luke Skywalker in the Grip of the Dwarf Sun*. It was painted in the dark and the red is all green instead. This is because the Torch Fund is, like the batteries, extremely low, which is a grave handicap to artistic activity after parents have switched lights out. The above-mentioned lack of red is caused by serious losses and possibly thefts in the Fibre-Tip branch of this organization. I know that we can rely on your assistance in balancing the books. Unless, that is, you want to be bombarded with green smears every week during 1984. Yours ominously...

Dear Uncle, It is a savage irony of the festive season that in a class of happy, well-fed children, there is one handicapped by complete lack of a Z100 Little Star-Battler Electro-game. This is not a Third World shanty-town but the capital city of western democracy! Will you help to remedy this scandal? Will the Z100 Electro-game hang from a child's tree? It is, after all, what Christmas is all about. Yours self-righteously...

### Bernard Levin: the way we live now



Royal smokers: Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI - but how can David Simpson (right) say tobacco killed them?

## Smoking: a small puff for a little less humbug

To the fray, however. The lengths to which the anti-smokers will go is exquisitely demonstrated in another part of Mr Simpson's reply. Defending (as of course I would also) the right of the Duke of Gloucester to be patron of the anti-smoking organization, he said that the Duke's keen, active and concerned patronage of ASH reflects the seriousness of our work and responsibilities; and no doubt members of the royal family might wish ASH had been around for much longer, seeing that smoking killed our last four kings.

Our last four kings, as any standard reference book will confirm, were Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI, and one point must immediately be conceded to Mr Simpson: they are all undoubtedly dead. The matter, however, cannot be allowed to rest there, and it is the reason why it cannot be allowed to rest there that provides the subject of my remarks today.

Edward VII died, in 1910, at the age of 69, a span somewhat above average for those days. George V died in 1936 at 71 (par for the course), the Duke of Windsor at 73, well above average, and George VI at 57, well below it.

All four of these monarchs smoked; the last of them contracted lung cancer, and may be presumed to have died of it. As Mr Simpson knows, but will wriggle himself into scintilla rather than admit, the link between smoking and lung cancer, though undoubtedly very strong, cannot prove that any particular sufferer from the latter got it from the former, and still less can it prove that smoking was the only cause. Still, I certainly cannot prove the opposite case, and Mr Simpson is entitled to the probability that smoking killed George VI. One down and three to go.

Edward VII suffered from a

number of diseases (including lechery, gluttony and gambling, though even Mr Simpson would not claim that these are induced by smoking); he had typhoid in 1871, a form of appendicitis is 1902 and some bronchial trouble in the year of his death, which was very abrupt. There is no evidence from which we may conclude that he was "killed by smoking", and precious little that his smoking had everything to do with his final illness.

George V played golf, gave up drinking throughout the First World War (if it comes to that, George VI gave up smoking throughout the Second) and broke his pelvis in a riding accident in 1915, but he survived all these catastrophes without lasting harm. He also survived, though much more narrowly, a streptococcal infection picked up in 1928; that was eight years before his death, and it made a complete recovery from it. In his case, there is not the slightest reason to suppose that smoking ever did him any harm at all.

Edward VIII enjoyed generally good health throughout his very long life; he was a fairly fit man most of the time, but again, Mr Simpson would presumably not argue that smoking causes softening of the brain. As for the present Queen, she doesn't smoke at all, and anyway is still alive, so that's all right.

Now estimate, to three places of decimals, the degree of self-deceptive intolerance from which a man must suffer to take the above facts and turn them into "smoking killed our last four kings". Having done that exercise, try working out how far you would trust the same man to tell you the time of day and get it right in fewer than three goes. It is not too much to say that Mr Simpson and his kind are firmly convinced,

or at any rate behave as though they are convinced, that if any person first smokes and then dies, it must follow as the night the day that the smoking was the direct and sole cause of the dying. It is useless for me to tell Mr Simpson that my maternal grandfather smoked 50 cigarettes a day throughout his adult life (his last breath was used, literally, to inhale his last puff) and died at the age of 84, because he will undoubtedly reply that if grandpa hadn't smoked he would have lived to 168, and I cannot prove him wrong. But I can prove him reckless and absurd in his fanaticism, and on the whole I think I just have.

Smoking is undoubtedly dangerous; nobody should be encouraged to do it, or to admire it. It is also a fairly nasty habit. It undoubtedly aggravates many illnesses, and no less undoubtedly causes some of them, and fatalities therefrom. But no one can say that this man contracted lung cancer and died of it because he smoked, whether the corpse was of a king or a rascal, and it is worth adding that some people contract lung cancer without ever setting eyes on a cigarette. And to claim that "smoking killed our last four kings" is not merely nonsense; it is the thirteenth chime of the clock, which casts doubt on all that has gone before, and diminishes the effect of Mr Simpson's more sensible work.

It is well that there are organizations which seek to draw our attention to the dangers of smoking, but it is not at all well that the members of such organizations should behave as though smokers are *hostes humani generis*, or as though the rules of evidence do not apply to those who campaign to stop them smoking. Those of you who have German may take extra comfort from the following verse; it is impossible to translate gracefully, but I offer a very free version to my monoglot readers:

*Alkohol und Nikotin  
Raff die halbe Menschheit hin:  
Oft Alkohol und Rauch,  
Stirbt die andere Hälfte auch.  
If you smoke and if you drink,  
It is later than you think:  
If such poison's not your game,  
You will perish just the same.*

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## How the IRA bombs backfire in America

New York  
The Harrods bomb, which claimed an American among its five victims, has made many Americans think hard.

In the past 12 years people in the United States have given several million dollars to help the IRA buy its guns and explosives. Much of the money is collected at jolly social evenings, dances, film shows and other events advertised in the little papers published for the Irish-American community.

The hat also goes round at meetings addressed by IRA men who have been in prison by the relatives of jailed men, and, occasionally, by fugitives.

The IRA's front organization in the US is the Irish Northern Aid Committee, known as Noraid. This week, the *Boston Globe*, which serves a city with a large Irish element, criticized the IRA and those city and state politicians who support it. The *Globe* said: "No political objective could justify random ruthlessness against the

innocent. Anyone who loves Ireland should be heartless, as most Irish people are, that its good name is invoked to justify this savagery."

It reminded readers that four Irish prime ministers had urged Americans not to give money to the IRA, and asked what people in Boston would think if a big department store there had been blown up and the Lord Mayor of London attended a fund-raising dinner for the bombers.

It went on: "The IRA has made enough widows and orphans in Ireland and Britain. It is time to bare the State House doors to murderers."

Noraid's leaders have always denied that the money they raise helps to keep the IRA in arms and ammunition, and it has never been proved in a court that Noraid has provided the guns for terrorism. Noraid's men in New York, like its leader, Michael Flannery, and its chief spokesman, Martin Galvin, always claim that the cash goes to organizations, such as the Green

Cross in northern Ireland and ACC in the Republic, for the relief of the families of jailed IRA men.

The US Justice Department which has conducted a long investigation of Noraid's activities, say the organization is "the major American source of funds for the IRA" and that about three-quarters of the money used to support violence in Northern Ireland comes from American sources.

The US government has been trying to clamp down on Noraid, which it regards as an agent of the IRA, by forcing it to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act and make declarations of its membership, funding and activities. Recently the government asked a judge in New York to declare that Noraid's failure to comply was contempt of court and asked for a \$5,000-a-day fine. The case was adjourned to January, and Noraid said it looked forward to a day in court to prove that it was being "hounded" at Britain's behest. Noraid has between 80 and 100

branches across the country, some 5,000 members and perhaps 30,000 sympathizers on its fringes. It has successfully exploited the sentiment of the large Irish-American element and the widespread ignorance of the complexities and emotions of the Northern Ireland issue.

There are about 40 million Americans of Irish descent, and the Irish accent has traditionally been strong, not least in politics and the police. There is a strong sentimental notion of Ireland, and St Patrick's Day parades are popular.

One effect of the Harrods bomb outrage is likely to be a decline in support and donations for Noraid. IRA atrocities in the past have led to a falling-off in contributions, and Saturday's murders have had a considerable impact here, not only because an American died among the Christmas shoppers but also because Americans, in other parts of the world, have recently been the victims of terrorist car bombs.

Trevor Fishlock





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## HARD POUNDING

Cabinet ministers congregated this morning for the last time in 1983, and Parliament rises for the Christmas recess this afternoon. It is six months since the election, but the political landscape seems quite different from that June day. Autumn brought its share of political diversions. The Opposition has a new suit of clothes though there is no evidence yet that the body inside the clothes has undergone any lasting change. However, the Labour Party is getting used to the feel of a new leadership. The flavour of that leadership places less emphasis on policy, and thus less on faction - let alone radicalism - and more on polishing the veneer of the party machine and achieving effective management and control. This technique has certainly had an effect in terms of the Labour Party's position in the opinion polls and in the general improvement of party morale. It cannot yet be said to have resulted in the party showing any desire or capacity to work for a sustained coherent and above all credible critique of the present government and its policies.

Indeed the attitude of the Kinnock Labour Party seems to be based primarily on the view that the preservation of unity is its most important strategy, while waiting to take advantage of the failure of this government, on the principle that oppositions do not win elections, though governments lose them. Given the divisive policy-making in the Labour Party's recent history that must be a tempting option, and who can blame Mr Kinnock

and his colleagues for this complacency when they see the Alliance slipping further in the polls and appearing to be less and less credible as an alternative political system?

Meanwhile it is said that the Government has become accident prone. That is so only in a superficial sense. On the underlying issue of the economy the Government's position is stronger now than it was in the summer. The evidence of controlled inflation persists, and even the ranks of Tuscany can scarce forbear to admit that economic recovery is with us. Only yesterday the OECD forecast that Britain's growth would exceed the European average next year and probably in 1985, pausing only to ask - inevitably - whether the recovery could be sustained.

The Government can therefore feel some satisfaction. Its doggedness in economic policy is paying off. Cabinet ministers have their heads down, persevering with unglamorous but essential programmes, denying by their every action the existence of the alleged "hidden manifesto"; but surely storing up some future trouble for themselves in the process.

There are dangers in an approach based on the politics of attrition. For a start it means that the argument about public spending will recur each year, generating much heat about sums which are essentially marginal in terms of the total budget. It means that economic management will continue to involve manipulation and bullying in the

public and private sectors, where the Government will continue to wield the power of the state purse which it has tried absolutely without success to reduce, hoping instead that economic growth will achieve a relative reduction.

Rhetorically the Prime Minister and the Chancellor still talk about reducing the scale of government. Few of their colleagues now join them. The reality is that this Cabinet, after six months, has come to terms with a more traditional Tory mixture than the radical thinking still perceived lurking between the lines of Prime Ministerial speeches.

Traditionalist Tory politics have perhaps allowed ministers to escape from facing up to the central contradiction in the radical position. That was to argue for the disengagement of government from many activities, while assuming powers of control and supervision - ostensibly as a transitional mechanism - which betrayed the very purpose and principle of disengagement.

The Prime Minister's political personality has always been clear and uncomplicated to voters. They have hitherto known what they can expect from her. If she, and by extension, her Cabinet, now change character and accept that they are in power to manage the existing and faulty system, not to change it, they will have some explaining to do. The trouble with the politics of attrition - of "hard pounding" - is that people forget what the pounding is for.

## TWO CABINETS: ONE TERRORISM

One item on the agenda of today's Cabinet meeting is the possible proscription of Sinn Fein. There is a strong *a priori* case for doing so. Sinn Fein is a party which openly advocates the violent overthrow of the institutions of the state, the "armed struggle" as it likes to call it. It operates the soft half of the Armalite/ballot box duality proclaimed by the Provisional movement. Moreover there are ample grounds to suspect some interchangeability of membership between Sinn Fein and the IRA - daylight politicians and night-time terrorists, in Lord Fitz's vivid image.

In these ways Sinn Fein is implicated in terrorist crime, though to a degree that keeps it for the most part outside the reach of the criminal law. The affiliation is a direct source of strength to the IRA, which is an illegal organization. Sinn Fein is therefore a legitimate object for extension of the criminal law, since the entitlement of a democratic state to proceed against internal organizations that seek to mobilize support for violent subversion is not to be doubted. Both the power and the justification are present for proclaiming Sinn Fein an illegal organization.

Unfortunately to proscribe Sinn Fein is not to cancel the phenomenon Sinn Fein exemplifies, which is organized support among a section of the population, in sentiment and in practice, for the pursuit of a political end by means of terrorism. It is possible that proscription might even have the hollow success of dispensing the name and reinforcing the reality. The matter is to be judged not simply in terms of principle or in

accordance with feelings of outrage, but by reference to utility. That requires a careful appraisal of its probable effects.

The Irish Cabinet met the day before yesterday with the same item on its agenda. It has not committed itself and wants further study to be made, but the indications are that it is unlikely to decide in favour of a ban on Sinn Fein; that it may prefer to move along more precise lines, and is exploring ways of extending the law relating to incitement and abetting. That might allow the authorities to move against selected subversives without either driving Sinn Fein underground or having recourse to ineffective blanket measures.

Like Mr Prior Irish ministers are also interested in the idea of sending Sinn Fein party representatives to Coventry. As in Northern Ireland Sinn Fein has been making some headway in the Republic by the diligent pursuit of community politics. In a recent by-election in Dublin Sinn Fein polled 7 per cent of the vote, more than it is accustomed to. The constituency contains some of the slummiest parts of the city and was rife with drug abuse. Sinn Fein set about the drug pedlars with its usual ruthlessness and to good effect. In such ways it wins a local following. Zest for the "armed struggle" can be implanted later. No Sinn Fein candidate has been elected to the Dail in 25 years but there are about 25 councillors of that description. A refusal by officials at every level to do business with the party's representatives might limit Sinn Fein's effectiveness and impair its exploitation of community politics.

The discussion in Downing Street will have to concentrate on the position of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland (although a ban, if that is what it comes to, should be for the whole United Kingdom, it is with reference to Northern Ireland that the proposal should be judged). In the Republic Sinn Fein's advocacy of political violence has a historical potency about it but wins it few friends today; it is electorally negligible, and is presently tainted by the revulsion against the IRA murder of an Irish soldier and policeman. The problem there is to keep the genie in the bottle.

The problem in the North is that the genie is out of the bottle. Sinn Fein mounts a formidable political challenge in the community. A ban in the Republic would be presented and probably accepted as a measure of state security. A ban in Northern Ireland would be more easily challengeable as a political measure, an attempt to silence the voice of the people.

Although the considerations that must weigh with the two governments are not identical Dublin has given a lead to London in two particulars: in its deliberation, making sure of its ground before moving; and in its initial preference for selective measures, directed at the more blatant abuses of Sinn Fein's political cover. The two governments should consult and if possible concert their plans, though it is better for the health of Dr FitzGerald that they not be seen to do so. It was over-evident cooperation with the British in a matter of security that was part of Mr Jack Lynch's undoing.

## POVERTY AND THE POLES

The low-key rallies held in Polish cities last Friday are not an indication of growing reconciliation between government and people; they are rather the result of a massive police presence and the constant emphasis by Solidarity leaders on the need for peaceful protest against unworkable policies rather than violent opposition to the regime. It made no sense to commemorate those killed in the price protests of 1970 and the first days of martial law in December 1981 by risking further deaths and injuries.

The threat that police brutality may lead to further bloodshed has not receded, however. Both the underground Solidarity leadership and the government are concerned that the price rises expected in January might provoke violent street demonstrations. General Jaruzelski has attempted to persuade the Poles that they are being consulted by circulating questionnaires, but it seems that most of the answers received so far have been unprintable. Speaking recently to Silesian miners he acknowledged that price rises would cause increased hardship but argued that only by raising production can the fall in living standards be halted; he claimed that the "strike madness" was over.

This is not the message of the underground Solidarity leadership, which maintains that there can be little improvement in the economy while ideology and the preservation of the political system are given higher priority than the people's welfare. Longer working hours, growing poverty, and the squandering of national resources are a result of trying to rule without popular participation.

With a third of the population living below the poverty line and the average wage so low that both parents must work to earn enough for their family's basic necessities, strike action and street demonstrations threaten disaster from the arrest or dismissal of a breadwinner.

Since the imposition of martial law, living standards have dropped by thirty per cent and a further drop is expected next year. The government has blamed Solidarity opposition and Western economic sanctions rather than admit responsibility for its own economic mismanagement. The vast majority of Poles welcomed sanctions as an expression of the West's outrage and a sign of support for their banned trade union. Now, however, Mr Lech Walesa has appealed for the lifting of sanctions. Confirmed in his

status as a genuine representative of Polish aspirations by the mass approval which greeted the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize, he should not be ignored.

The rescheduling of Poland's debt to the West is already under discussion, but a satisfactory outcome depends on the Polish government accepting realistic terms. Humanitarian arguments and the need to support Solidarity now combine in making some relaxation of other sanctions desirable, but in such a way as to encourage more genuine concessions from the regime than have been apparent so far. A Christmas amnesty for the hundreds of political prisoners would be a welcome sign of good faith.

Mr Walesa has already emphasized that there must be no return to the "disastrous" loan process of the 1970s, when borrowed money was squandered by the regime. More conditionality will be necessary in future. Top priority must go to aiding food production. Western broadcasts can make it clear in Poland that the gradual relaxation of sanctions is to help the Poles rather than the regime, and that further economic cooperation is dependent on better treatment of the population.

## Just retribution for terrorism

From Mr Denis E. Meehan  
Sir, As an Irishman who has lived and worked in London for many years I have often taken your prescription and transcribed myself in imagination to Belfast, as horrors multiplied there.

But theoretical or imaginative perception of terrorism is somewhat remote from the quiddity of it, which I experienced at Harrods, where I work, on Saturday. I can now no longer find it in me to believe that the agents of such destruction, wanton and random in its effects, are capable of redemption. Reluctantly, for I have been a lifetime opponent of capital punishment, I now believe that terrorists convicted of murder should be executed.

Of course I may be over-reacting, but I would guess that a majority of the thousands of people who were in Harrods on Saturday, both staff and customers, would agree with me.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS E. MEEHAN,  
194 Merton Road,  
Wandsworth, SW18,  
December 19.

From Mrs Aileen Keogan  
Sir, As a citizen of this unfortunate country may I thank you for your compassionate editorial today (December 19).

There are so many of us here who suffer, and have suffered, unbearable anguish and despair at the atrocities which are being daily perpetrated in our name. With each new horror it becomes an increasing source of shame to belong to a race which could breed creatures capable of such mind-boggling acts.

Our only hope is that the British people will realize, in time, that together with our agony and sorrow for these dreadful deeds, we must carry the added burden of shame and shared responsibility.

This, I fear, is not very coherent, but believe me, it comes from the heart.

Sincerely,  
AILEEN KEOGAN,  
11 Ballymac Green,  
Templeogue,  
Dublin 12, Co. Dublin,  
Republic of Ireland,  
December 19.

From Mr Richard Meynell  
Sir, In the wake of the Harrods bombing, it may be helpful to the IRA to compare what they have in fact achieved by their actions with their declared, or self-evident, objectives.

Their first objective is, by terror, to compel the British Government to change its policy. To see that they will in fact have achieved precisely the opposite effect it is only necessary for them to consider the reaction of this people to the last application of terror - Hitler's Blitz - by thugs of equivalent depravity.

Their second objective is to advance the cause of Ireland. They have done the opposite; they have in fact advanced perilously close to that tragic brink where the once fair name of Ireland will, however undeservedly, become synonymous with all that is most vile.

Their third objective is to kill, cripple and inflict agony on as many totally innocent men, women and children - especially children, as evidenced by their deliberate choice of the peak family shopping time - as is in their power. In this objective they have succeeded. In this they can glory and rejoice.

Or can they? Will they not eventually realize that all they have done is to damage their own cause; and then, as they hear in their minds, as they surely will, the

From Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP for Down South (Official Unionist Party)  
Sir, Contrary to Mrs Hanna Quinn's belief (December 20), the provisions of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, relating to a Council of Ireland are not "still on the statute book". I am, Sir, yours etc.  
J. ENOCH POWELL,  
House of Commons,  
December 20.

From the Secretary of the British Medical Association  
Sir, It is tragic that those of us who have children's welfare at heart should be divided by Sir Bernard Braine's narrow arguments (December 15). We agree that in girls under the age of 16 sexual activity is medically and emotionally undesirable. We agree that where it is occurring it is highly desirable that the parents should be aware of the position so that they can offer the necessary support to the girl. It is therefore irresponsible of Sir Bernard to state that doctors are making contraceptive "freely available" to young girls without parental consent.

The best way of managing the problem is to place no obstacle in the way of such girls seeking medical advice as the doctor will do his best to persuade the girl to agree to the parents being informed; and only in exceptional cases, and where the doctor is satisfied of the capability of the girl to handle the situation, will treatment be given without the parents being informed.

If the law were to provide either that it is illegal to give contraceptive advice and treatment in any circumstances to young girls, or that doctors should be required to inform the parents in such cases, there would be a marked reluctance to seek medical advice, with the consequences of unwanted pregnancies and, at worst, recourse to illegal abortions. An important opportunity would therefore be lost for doctors to help such girls and to persuade them to involve their parents.

It does not assist the resolution of these serious problems for Sir Bernard to suggest that doctors are encouraging promiscuity. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that there is a cause and effect relationship of the kind he implies in his letter, between abortion and illegitimacy statistics and the availability of contraception.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HAVARD, Secretary,  
British Medical Association,  
BMA House,  
Tavistock Square, WCI,  
December 19.

From Mr Maurice Cowin  
Sir, I read with great interest the article written (feature, December 14) by Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley North, on the appalling situation regarding the plight of remand prisoners.

A friend of mine has been in custody, on holding charges only, since early August and has been shovelled around from police cell to police cell, from Barking to Sevenoaks, from Aylesbury to Winchester Hill. The conditions in these cells, which are no way the fault of the police, are similar to those one associates with far darker corners of the world than the Greater London area.

It is almost impossible for his solicitor to arrange his defence due to his constant change of whereabouts, and the pressures on his family are totally unacceptable, bearing in mind that a person is innocent until proved guilty.

Surely magistrates must be made more aware of this disgraceful state of affairs, and surely positive action should be taken now - and not in the near future.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE COWIN,  
65 Alder Lodge,  
River Gardens,  
Surrey Road, SW6,  
December 16.

From Mr Giorgio Francesconi  
Sir, Far from being an unwelcome development, a British decision to withhold payment to the EEC (your leader, December 16) might help find a final solution to the permanent crisis of the last few years.

The UK would be in breach of EEC laws and, if a stalemate followed, as is likely, the outcome could well be the end of the present Community. This would allow the countries which believe in European principles to form another Community, with which Britain could negotiate a treaty of association.

Yours faithfully,  
GIORGIO FRANCESCONI,  
283 Westbourne Park Road, W11,  
December 19.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Towards a new gas industry

From Sir Kenneth Hutchison, FRS  
Sir, The future of the gas industry is under discussion and decisions may have been taken already behind closed doors at the ministry. Even so I trust that it is not too late to offer some suggestions for consideration about the structure of the industry when it is returned to the private sector.

I write as the one-time chairman of one of the 12 original area gas boards, each of which was an independent and self-accounting body; together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Gas Council we represented the corporate identity of the new gas industry in 1949.

The supply of gas is a natural monopoly and has been recognized as such since the Metropolitan Gas Act of 1860 gave legal force to the many "districting" agreements made between the warring factions who had been laying their mains in the same London streets.

With the grant of monopoly went a right of intervention by the state and an obligation on the companies to supply; nothing much was changed by the Gas Act 1948. What remained was a keen spirit of competition between the area boards, each a monopoly supplier in its own area, headed up by persons of widely different origins, united only in the belief that his was to be the best board, the most enterprising and the most viable financially.

I believe that the gas industry of the future in the private sector can best be structured on the basis of 12 independent area boards, each small enough to be sensitive to the desires of its share of 15 million consumers of gas and large enough to maintain internally an efficient operational and management structure.

Each area board would be free to concentrate its efforts on improvements in service to its consumers while maintaining a sound financial base from which to service the

public issues of loan stock and equity for which it would be individually responsible.

There should be a supply corporation, responsible as the British Gas Corporation is now, for procuring, producing, storing, and in the long term manufacturing, gas, and for maintaining the transmission system by which to deliver gas to terminals in each area board. The terms and conditions of supply and demand should be contractually enforceable.

The corporation, like the area boards, would issue its own loan stock and equity and act in all respects as any other responsible oil company does except for a prior commitment to meet the area boards' demands for gas.

But *quis custodiet?* I will propose that there be established an independent regulatory commission with powers, inter alia, to determine the maximum price of gas sold by the corporation to the area boards and by the boards to the public in their respective areas of supply. There is nothing new in this; from the early days of the gas industry right up to vesting day there have been regulations designed to control the profits of the companies supplying gas. In the USA the state legislatures exercise control by energy commissions or other means.

The commission, as here proposed, would also have responsibility for authorizing the issue of loan stock, and equity when and if that becomes feasible and in the course of its duties would want to examine in depth the efficiency and performance of a board or the corporation.

I do not see why anyone should object to that, if only as the price of freedom.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH HUTCHISON,  
2 Arlington Road,  
Twickenham,  
Middlesex,  
December 16.

### Catching the bus

From Mr Victor Peskett  
Sir, You were right to highlight the plight of the people faced with the withdrawal of commercial bus services from 12 Norfolk villages (report, December 9), but perhaps too ready to follow the pessimistic forecast of the bus company's general manager.

No doubt, as he is reported to have said, private operators will find it no more economic than Eastern Counties to run loss-making services. But people can help themselves, as the community buses already operating in Norfolk demonstrate.

Our service on the Norfolk-Suffolk border is now in its fifth year of operation. Over 11,000 passengers have been carried on regular services which link 13 villages with five towns. All drivers are volunteers and unpaid, as are the organising committees.

Private motorists and housewives left during the day without transport find such a scheme invaluable, and are not slow in expressing their gratitude.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR PESKETT, Administrator,  
Upper Waveney Valley Community Bus,  
Huntsman and Hounds Cottage,  
Metfield, Harleston, Norfolk.

### Efficiency drive

From Mr C. H. Sisson  
Sir, "If the (efficiency) initiative is to survive it must push to get recommendations delivered without losing its bite. The credibility barrier is establishing that good management is not optional. So wrote Ian Beesly, head of the Efficiency Unit (report, December 14).

So many words to say so little! If that is the blue-eyed Under-Secretary of 1983, the only prospect for Whitehall is of less meaning on more paper. Efficiency indeed!

Perhaps there was something to be said for a Literate Civil Service after all.

Yours faithfully,  
C. H. SISSON,  
Moorfield Cottage,  
The Hill,  
Langport, Somerset,  
December 14.

### Temptation to meddle

From Mr C. P. Dalton  
Sir, I was charmed by the picture of the refurbished platform at Charing Cross Underground station in your issue today (December 14). Waiting for the train could indeed be a pleasure in such surroundings.

But why, I ask, could not London Transport have put the murals on the other side of the track? The intervention of the electrified line might have at least deterred the many amateur artists who through the Underground these days from adding the elements that Botticelli was careful to leave to the imagination.

Yours faithfully,  
C. P. DALTON,  
Copice,  
Kilworth Lane,  
Storrington, West Sussex,  
December 14.

### US-Israel peace plans

From Mr John Stebbing  
Sir, Your leading article of December 1 reveals very clearly the significance of the new agreement of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel: it shows also the great importance of an effective revival of the Reagan peace plan.

Unfortunately, the first signs of a new approach to the problems of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are not promising. After his diplomatic success, Mr Shamir's perfunctory undertaking "to have another look at the Reagan peace plan" does not suggest that any strong pressure has been applied to him to secure a realistic reduction in the West Bank settlements.

Unless decisive pressure is applied Mr Shamir's review is likely to be no more than a brief ritual exercise; the West Bank situation would then be unchanged and the prospects of peace for all the peoples of the region soon extinguished.

This view is supported by the conclusions of the extremely competent, and quite independent, Benvenisti group of Israeli researchers in their first report (September, 1982) on the realities of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Writing of land and land use, the group concluded that "The combination of land acquisition, closure of areas for military purposes and land use planning, roads and infrastructure development, has already ensured complete Israeli control over space in the West Bank".

A large proportion of West Bank water resources have been taken over and the research group has listed 1,000 military government measures closely regulating the life of Palestinians in the two occupied territories. The 120 Israeli settlements are planned to have a rural population of 100,000 by 1987; and the West Bank Higher Planning Commission is reported by the research group to have plans for 60,000 housing units for an urban population of 320,000, in eight urban settlements in the West Bank.

What appears to be needed, if a properly autonomous Palestinian administration is to be set up, is a concerted approach by all moderate Arab countries and the countries of the West to persuade the President

of the United States to withdraw American support for this programme: to require Israel to dismantle all except for a negotiated strategic minimum of settlements (perhaps to be held under lease) in exchange for peace within recognized, guaranteed, boundaries which are defensible. It seems likely that every argument and leverage would be needed to achieve this, even including the possible curtailment of oil supplies.

The search for an honourable solution to this problem is exceedingly urgent. It is a matter which should not be put aside because of the presidential distraction. Though it be the subject of an ineffective compromise for the sake of electoral advantage.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STEBBING,  
Fair Beches,  
Burcot,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire,  
December 5.

### Middle East auspices

From Dr. H. R. McKinlay  
Sir, The white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) has just completed its autumn migration south through the north Bek'aa Valley, oblivious of terrestrial distraction. Though the Meinertzhagen says that their main route is east of the Anti-Lebanon mountains, flocks of 500 to 2,000 birds flew in at an altitude of 200 metres from the direction of the Lac de Homs, beginning on August 31.

Flying two kilometres east of Hama, they then circled in a clockwise spiral to 1,000 metres near the Hermil pyramid (Qanawat el Hermil), a tomb of a Syrian prince dating from the first century BC. South of El Ain they circled again before crossing the Anti-Lebanon mountains.

Flocks passed on this route on August 31, September 1, October 5, 12, 20 and finally on October 31, generally between 8.30 and 9.30am. Their only concession to current events is that for the past two years they have not flown over Baalbek.

Yours faithfully,  
H. R. MCKINLAY,  
Hermil,  
Bek'aa Valley,  
Lebanon,  
November 28.







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Why Merrill Lynch is thundering after Wedd

Earlier this month America's biggest investment brokers, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, submitted an affidavit by Judge Robert Carter, presiding in the Southern District Court of New York. The affidavit throws new light on why Merrill Lynch and the equally eminent Wall Street house, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb & Co., are suing London's premier stock jobbers, Wedd Durlacher, Mordant for a total of just under \$15m (£10.6m).

The documents trace the operations of Pastor Securities, which have left Wall Street and European institutions with debts well in excess of \$25m (£17.7m). Pastor Securities, an American subsidiary of a Spanish company owned by Peruvians, sold 1.7 million "blue chip" shares it did not own on Wall Street in the expectation that they would fall in price; the shares would then be bought back at a profit.

The shares, in Getty Oil, Motorola and National Semi Conductor (NSM), rose sharply in price leaving Pastor with an open commitment to the American brokers, principally Merrill Lynch, who had acted for Pastor. The company could not supply Merrill with the shares sold on its behalf and to meet its own commitments Merrill had to buy them in at the higher prices prevailing, resulting in Merrill's suffering a net loss of \$12.25 million (£8.7m), and Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb \$2.7m (£1.9m) - a combined total of \$15m.

At about the same time, between August 24 and September 19, Pastor had commissioned Wedd Durlacher to buy through other leading Wall Street brokers 784,400 Motorola, Getty Oil and NSM shares. This was a million shares fewer than Pastor had sold short and none of them found their way to Merrill Lynch or Lehman Brothers. Neither the chief executive of Pastor Securities, Mr Rafael Pastor, nor the shares have been seen since.

## Accounts opened

Merrill Lynch is claiming that the president of Wedd's US operations, Mr David Rochester, formerly with Cazenove and now an employee of Merrill, was doubtful about Mr Pastor's bona fides last June. It is therefore alleged that Wedd "knew or was reckless in disregarding the fact that transactions which were effected by Wedd Durlacher were part of a scheme to defraud Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith and that Wedd Durlacher's participation in the scheme was essential to its fulfilment and, indeed, for such participation by Wedd Durlacher, the scheme could not have been effected."

Wedd strenuously denies the allegation which is basically centered on the evidence afforded by Mr Rochester. The English firm is seeking to have Merrill's case dismissed for being technically incorrect in presentation and because Wedd claims that at no time did it have knowledge that would cause it to suspect the nature of Mr Pastor's stock market trading activities.

The story really began last spring. Mr Pastor opened accounts with both Merrill Lynch and Wedd Durlacher. He then claimed to be a portfolio manager for wealthy European and South American families and an executor of "block" share transactions for major European and South American banks.

From that time until August Mr Pastor's market activities were cloaked by his having major firms deal against each other. In some instances, Merrill claims, he was buying and selling the same shares simultaneously.

The New York Stock Exchange has a five-day account period, at the end of

which time shares sold have to be supplied and those bought paid for. Most brokers will allow an extension of a week or two in special circumstances, but the facility is usually for favoured clients. The 834,300 shares of Getty Oil, 374,900 shares of Motorola and 553,200 shares of National Semi Conductor Pastor had sold were not delivered on time but Merrill agreed to grant an extension.

Pastor said that National Westminster, Lloyds Bank or Manufacturers & Traders Trust would deliver the shares. Merrill waited until September 26 before accepting that it would have to buy the shares in at a loss. Within days Merrill sued Pastor Securities.

## Memo sent

It was not until October that Merrill discovered that Pastor had been trading through Wedd Durlacher. Using brokers like Salomon Brothers and Bear Stearns, Wedd, Merrill claims, was able to buy in the same shares at a price substantially below that which would have "otherwise prevailed." Merrill also alleges that Wedd claimed to be acting as principal, dealing for its own account, when, in fact, it was dealing for Pastor.

The basis of Merrill's allegations is a memo Mr Rochester sent to the executive committee of Wedd, dated June 7, 1983. In it, Mr Rochester asks why Pastor was dealing through Wedd when it could have dealt direct. Why pay "high Commissions" for the privilege of dealing through WDM? "Pastor does not want to disclose his hand as a large dealer to any US brokerage house."

Mr Rochester also asks whether Pastor had hot money and was laundering it at arm's length from the IRS (Internal Revenue Service); whether Pastor was trading at arm's length from the Securities Exchange Commission, (unlikely); why Pastor was so anxious to keep WDM at arm's length; and why Bankers Trust stopped clearing for Pastor?

Merrill also asked why, in June, WDM partners and employees had already raised the question of why Pastor was using Wedd and had discussed "various improper and illegal motives that might underlie Pastor's trading through WDM." The jobbers continued to execute large purchase orders on Pastor's behalf?

In Wedd's counter memorandum the jobbers argue that the very existence of the memo proves that they were not aware of any irregularity and in fact the memo "supports an inference exactly opposite to that for which it is tendered by Merrill Lynch."

## No comments

Although neither company was prepared to comment yesterday, it is clear that Pastor met his commitments to Wedd: it paid for all the shares that Wedd purchased on its behalf. The fact that WDM was kept at "arm's length" indicates, in Wedd's view, that it was not privy to whatever the Pastor was doing to which Merrill has taken legal exception.

In the normal course of American legal actions of this kind Judge Carter will either dismiss Merrill's action against Wedd, and Merrill sustain the loss; or he won't, in which event an out-of-court settlement would probably be reached.

Whatever the final judgment in the case it is a pity that leading institutions in New York should have their horns locked with London's leading jobber. It might have helped had the Wedd partners agreed to the suggestion from their former senior partner, Mr R. S. Wilkins (now 70 and in as good form as ever) that he should act as a mediator.

# Middle East buyers foiled in Kleinwort Benson raid

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

An attempt by unknown Middle East investors to build up a 10 per cent stake in Kleinwort Benson, Lonsdale, holding company for one of the City's top merchant banks, fuelled speculation yesterday over the next big development in the financial markets.

Messel & Co, the stockbroker, moved into the market yesterday morning offering up to 395p for shares in Kleinwort Benson, 28p above the previous night's closing price. However the share rose quickly above the offer price and Messel is believed to have managed to buy only about 200,000.

The shares closed up 56p at 423p, valuing the bank at £229m. Messel was acting for TWH Investment, a company registered in Netherlands Antilles with a wholly-owned

London subsidiary which manages portfolios for private clients in the Middle East.

TWH said yesterday that it owned 2.82 million shares or 5.2 per cent of Kleinwort Benson but denied that the stake was anything more than an investment.

Mr Philip Watson, a shareholder in TWH said the stake in Kleinwort Benson had been bought on behalf of a couple of Middle East clients resident in the Gulf who were also shareholders in TWH.

He said the clients wanted an investment in a top quality merchant bank and they had known Kleinwort Benson for some time. He said there was no intention to make a bid.

Asked whether they would be buying more shares, Mr Watson said: "I have no idea, that depends on my clients. I should think the approach would be

to let the dust settle and see what happens."

At Kleinwort Benson, Lord Rockley, a director of the merchant bank took a relaxed view. "We know the people who are behind the purchase of the shares. They are longstanding banking customers," he said.

Lord Rockley said he believed the stake was simply an investment and was not worried about the possibility of a bid. "We are interested in their respectability," he added.

He would not be drawn on the bank's plans to cope with the shake-up in the City and financial markets. "We've formulated a lot of ideas and we've never publicly aired them. We'll just have to see how and when they get implemented," Lord Rockley said.

Kleinwort Benson's disclosed profits have slipped from £22.9m in 1980 to £20.0m last

year and are likely to be lower again in 1983.

The Bank of England takes a close interest in ownership of merchant banks and in 1972 it issued a notice in effect saying that its permission was required before foreign companies bought more than 15 per cent in a merchant bank.

"It is understood that banks will consult the Bank on all proposals for participations exceeding 15 per cent as early as possible and before any formal negotiations are undertaken; and that they will accept the Bank's ruling in each case and take no irreversible steps in the meantime," the notice said.

Although the Bank might take a more relaxed view in the present climate, it is unlikely that would sanction a contested takeover of a merchant bank.

## Panelsets deadline on bid for Eagle Star

By Our Financial Staff

The City Takeover Panel yesterday set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding in Britain's biggest ever takeover battle for Eagle Star Holdings.

The deadline was imposed after a full meeting of the 13-member panel, chaired by Mr Martin Jacob, vice-chairman of Kleinwort Benson.

Mr John Hignett, director general of the panel, had called the meeting in a bid to resolve problems caused by the competing bids from the West German insurer, Allianz Versicherungs, and BAT Industries.

The panel was forced to announce its deadline and an amendment to its rules because of the unique nature of the bidding. The problems have been caused because the rival bidders have remained in the battle for Eagle Star for so long.

BAT Industries has the highest offer on the table with a 67p per share cash offer valuing Eagle Star at £934m. Allianz has offered 66p per share, which is worth £920m.

Under takeover rules, a bidder is not allowed to revise a takeover offer after the forty-sixth day after posting the last of two competing offers.

However, the panel has amended its rules so that each of the bidders is able to announce details of its final offer on the forty-sixth day (December 30) rather than posting them to shareholders that day.

The panel will police the bids by insisting that it should be given details of any offer at least 30 minutes before they are released to the Stock Exchange. The final date for posting the offer details will be deferred until January 4.

The panel said yesterday that no further exceptional provisions would be over the bid unless more exceptional circumstances arose.

On the stock market, Eagle Star shares rose by 7p to 729p, as dealers anticipated a fresh spate of bidding for Eagle Star. Shares of BAT Industries, which welcomed the decision to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the timing of the bidding, were unchanged at 128p.



US - Italian agreement: Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti chairman (left), with Charles Brown, A.T. & T. chairman (right) and James Olson, A.T. & T. vice-chairman, after announcing their deal in Rome yesterday.

## A T & T takes 25% stake in Olivetti

From John Earle, Rome

American Telephone and Telegraph is to take a 25 per cent share in Olivetti, Italy's data processing company, through a \$250m (£183m) issue of Olivetti shares under a wide-ranging industrial and commercial agreement between the two groups.

Signor Carlo de Benedetti, Olivetti's chairman, said in Rome yesterday that the deal was "the biggest minority investment ever made by an American company outside the United States."

The two groups will distribute each other's products in their respective markets. Olivetti will supply A.T. & T. over a 12-month period from mid-1984, with a new Olivetti-designed product - about which no details were given - to an approximate value of \$250m.

The agreement also provides for joint development. A.T. & T.'s participation is being arranged through the issue of 100 million new shares. Signor de Benedetti has thus respected assurances, given to the French Government, that shares released by the recent reduction in French holdings (from the 33 per cent stake of Saint Gobain and Bull to the 10 per cent now held by CIT-Alcatel) would not pass into American ownership.

Control of Olivetti will remain in the hands of an Italian-controlled shareholders' syndicate. The Americans have undertaken not to increase their investment in Olivetti for four years.

## US expects 4.5% growth

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The American economy is expected to grow at an annual rate of 4.5 per cent in the final quarter of the year, continuing its year-long recovery from the most severe recession since the 1930's, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

Release of the department's preliminary "flash estimate" of the fourth-quarter gross national product marked a day of extremely good economic news for President Reagan, who predicted at this year-end news conference on Tuesday that 1983 would turn out to be a banner year for Americans.

Although the projected figures are sharply lower than the third-quarter growth of 7.6 per cent, they none-the-less represent healthy growth, especially when coupled with the Government's new inflation figures, also released yesterday.

Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house controlled by Lloyds Bank with a minority shareholder, reported a big recovery in profits yesterday.

Despite substantially higher bad debt provisions, pretax profits jumped from £12.3m to £22.4m in the year to September 30 and the annual dividend is unchanged at 3.87p net a share.

A change in accounting policy for regional development grants on leased assets has boosted profits by £2.3m and the previous year has been restated upwards by £1.6m but Lloyds & Scottish is falling in line with the generally accepted practice.

Lloyds Bank has long wanted to buy out Royal Bank's 39.3 minority stake in the finance house, but has been unable to reach agreement on price. However, on Tuesday Lloyds raised its stake in Royal Bank to 21.3 per cent to strengthen its bargaining position to gain the rest of Lloyds & Scottish.

Lloyds & Scottish is one of Britain's biggest finance houses and is particularly strong in hire purchase. It has been helped by lower interest rates, which averaged 1.6 percentage points less during 1982-83.

The previous year profits were depressed by heavy financing costs of two acquisitions, Bowmaker and Hamilton Leasing. But a £70.5m rights issues this year helped to reduce that burden.

The group's gross assets rose by about a quarter from £2.09 billion to £2.56 billion with much of the growth coming from the consumer side. However, bad debts, up on both the consumer and corporate side, are believed to have risen by more than half.

## Judge rules on NCB pension fund

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

A High Court ruling yesterday could end the drawn-out dispute over the running of the National Coal Board's £2 billion pension fund.

The ruling, made in chambers during interim proceedings in the Chancery Division by Mr Justice Vinelott and may possibly lead to a full trial. Because of this, lawyers for the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers, the two parties involved, declined to comment and the ruling has not been made public.

The case was brought by the NCB's five trustees on the pension fund to seek permission to go ahead with an investment in a US company. The NUM's five trustees had argued that they needed time to consider the issue, but the court has been told that because of the necessity of a quick decision on the investment a court ruling was required.

The pension fund had wanted to make the investment under its previous strategy which is being continued because the NUM refuses to meet or discuss a new programme.

The fund's trustees have always refused to reveal details of their investment plans because, they say, stock markets could be adversely affected if the fund's intentions were known in advance.

The NUM, using policy decisions by the Trades Union Congress to support its case, argues that it is wrong for the fund to invest in certain overseas companies and in industries which compete with coal.

No details of the investment involved in the High Court case have been released, but it is understood that the non-NUM trustees are anxious to continue the present policy of investing in the US bond market and in oil shares.

The eventual outcome of yesterday's High Court ruling could be that the NUM will change its policy and begin discussions with the other trustees on a new investment strategy.

## Index at 772 peak

The FT Index surged through the important 770 mark yesterday, helped by renewed selective support for leading equities. It closed the day 2.2 points up at an all-time high of 772.0.

Bid speculation produced good gains among the merchant banks and discount houses, where Kleinwort Benson was the subject of an abortive dawn raid. The shares ended the day 56p higher at 423p.

A further pound also provided late support for gilts, which, having been unchanged most of the day, closed with rises of about 25p. On the foreign exchanges the pound gained 30 points to close at \$1.4225.

Market report, page 15

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 772.0 up 2.2  
 FT All Shares: 68.05 up 0.23  
 Baseline: 20.005  
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.5 up 0.4  
 New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1248.27 up 6.30  
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9717.65 up 89.72  
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 857.56 down 0.97  
 Amsterdam: 158.3 up 1.2  
 Sydney: AO Index: 758.2 up 1.2  
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1024.9 up 3.7  
 Brussels: General Index: 98.36 up 0.18  
 Paris: CAC Index: 149.7 up 0.5  
 Zurich: SKA General Index: 310.10 up 2.20

## CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
 Sterling: \$1.4225 up 35pts  
 Index: 82.3 up 0.4  
 DM: 3.9450 up 0.0175  
 FF: 12.03 up 0.0450  
 Yen: 344.25 down 1.0  
 Index: 130.9 up 0.1  
 DM: 2.7715 up 0.0003  
 NEW YORK LATEST  
 Sterling: \$1.4235  
 Dollar: DM 2.7687  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 ECU: £0.73235  
 SDR: £0.732152

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
 Bank base rate 9%  
 Finance houses base rate 9%  
 Discount market loans week fixed 9-8%  
 3 month interbank 9%  
 Euro-currency rates:  
 3 month dollar 10%  
 3 month DM 6%  
 3 month FF 13%  
 US rates:  
 Bank prime rate 11.00  
 Fed funds 9%  
 Treasury long bond 100%-100%  
 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV  
 Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
 am \$378.25 pm \$378.75  
 close \$378.75 (\$265.25-265.75)  
 New York (latest): \$378.00  
 Kruggerand (per cent): \$388-388.50 (\$273-274)  
 Sovereigns (new): \$88.25-89.25 (\$62-62.75)  
 \*Excludes VAT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Retail boom 'to continue into spring'

Britain's retail boom is set to continue at least until next spring according to the results of the latest survey of the distributive trades by the Confederation of British Industry.

The survey, published today, shows there was a widespread increase in sales in November compared with a year earlier. The rise was most marked among retailers, with a smaller increase noted by wholesalers.

A balance of 33 per cent of distributors are optimistic about business conditions over the next three months again with retailers heading the list.

Blue Chip share prices forged ahead in early trading on the New York Exchange with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 7.5 points to 1249. Volume was about 18 million shares in the first 45 minutes of trading.

Fisdec, a new venture capital business set up by Exco International and British and Commonwealth Shipping has invested much of its initial £6m of finance in four companies. Fisdec specializes in financial and information services and technology.

On Pont, one of Northern Ireland's largest industrial companies, is to cut its energy bill by a quarter by converting its internal electricity generating plant in Londonderry from oil to coal, at a cost of £18m.

## BSC in £2.4m merger with two producers

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Britain's three main producers of ferrous rolled rings, used mostly for railway wheel tyres, have agreed to a £2.4m compensation plan for the rationalization of the sector under a scheme that will lead to the privatization of another of the British Steel Corporation's activities.

The BSC and the two private companies, Woodhouse and Rixson (Holdings), have agreed outline terms for the combining of their businesses into a new

company to be called United Ring. Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank which put together the proposals, will acquire 12.5 per cent of United Ring shares when the deal is completed, leaving the BSC with 75 per cent of the new company worth about £10.5m.

The scheme has been drawn up in response to the continued excess capacity in Britain for rolled rings, which also have applications in turbines and bearing cages.

The car group declined to reveal the price it received for the loss-making business, but indicated that the deal brings to £80m the proceeds from the sale of businesses since its recovery programme was launched in 1981.

Mr Eschallier, a former head of Gulf & Western's mining and resources division and a lawyer, is now chairman of Aveling. He said yesterday that among the priorities would be an expansion of overseas sales.

Mr Brian Hoare, the former chairman of Aveling, and Mr Roger Lockwood, the managing director, announced their resignations on completion of the sale. The deal marks a milestone in BL's recovery programme by completing the sale of its peripheral activities. BL's sales of Alvis, Prestcold, Coventry Climax and other businesses previously raised £53m, which indicates a price tag of about £25m for Aveling.

The group has shed a subsidiary which has been losing money for the past four years.

The market for Aveling's dumper trucks, road rollers and grading equipment has declined sharply although losses have been cut in recent years. Within the past 12 months

## Proceeds from sales of offshoots reaches £80m

# BL sells Aveling to American

By Andrew Cornelius

BL yesterday sold its Aveling Bradford construction equipment subsidiary, which employs 1,100 people at Grantham, Lincolnshire, to Mr Adrian Eschallier, an American entrepreneur.

The car group declined to reveal the price it received for the loss-making business, but indicated that the deal brings to £80m the proceeds from the sale of businesses since its recovery programme was launched in 1981.

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John Hignett: called meeting to resolve bid problems

the world market for this type of equipment has fallen by 20 per cent as orders have fallen from the construction and mining industries.

The fall in demand has been accompanied by a cut of 400 in the Aveling workforce and increasing emphasis on export sales, which now account for two-thirds of the company's £37m annual turnover.

Despite the problems Aveling has maintained its leadership in the dumper truck and road roller markets and to sustain sales volume.

Mr Eschallier has indicated that there are no immediate plans to reduce the workforce at Grantham, where the company is the largest employer.

Since leaving Gulf & Western after four years running 12

mines and five refineries with a turnover \$300m each year Mr Eschallier has worked as a consultant to several companies, while seeking out an opportunity to take over a company.

BL, with the sale of Aveling is able to concentrate on meeting its pledge to begin privatizing parts of the business in the New Year. Jaguar, Land Rover and Unipart remain favourites for early privatization.

BL has reported its first trading profits for four years after an improved performance from its volume cars division, where productivity has jumped by 40 per cent in the past year.

The trading profits of £1.3m in the first half of this year compare with losses of £1.3m in the same period last year.



## GOLF

## Women are given a big lift out of the rough by sponsors

Britain's women professionals will be playing for almost £400,000 next season - a large increase on the 1983 figure. Even more important, the standard of play should rise considerably as there will be 15 four-round stroke-play tournaments next year compared with only one last season.

The prize money has been increased through Hitachi sponsoring a revival of the British Women's Open with a purse of £140,000 at Woburn next October. But the PGA have virtually doubled other prizes, an excellent achievement considering that the women's circuit was in dire straits when they took over a year ago.

The circuit starts with the Ford Classic at Woburn in May and will go on until the middle of October. It also features a revival of the match-play championship, one Continental event - the Swedish open - and 16 pro-am tournaments.

Colin Snape, executive director of the women's PGA, said: "The tremendous increase in

prize money in such a short period reflects the growing interest in women's golf throughout Europe. With more competition, the WPGA will continue to expand." Dates and venues:

MAY 2-5: Ford Classic, Woburn (£20,000); 17-20: Claretta Classic, Claretta (£10,000); JUNE 5-8: Claretta Classic, Claretta (£10,000); 14-17: Col Carr Jersey Open, Royal Jersey (£10,000); 28-JULY: Guernsey Open, Royal Guernsey (£10,000).

JUNE 6-8: British Open, Old Tom's (£10,000); 13-16: United Friendly Tournament, Hill Barn (£10,000); 20-23: USGA Classic, Farnborough (£10,000); 28-JULY: Guernsey Open, Royal Guernsey (£10,000).

JULY 12-14: Caldey Classic, Caldey (£7,500); 25-28: J S Law Eastleigh Classic, Fleming Park (£10,000).

AUGUST 2-5: United Friendly Tournament, Southport and Anfield (£12,500); 7-10: White Horse Whisky Challenge, Burnham Beeches (£10,000); 14-17: Col Carr Jersey Open, Royal Jersey (£10,000); 25-28: Swedish Open, Mollie (£17,500).

SEPTEMBER 12-14: Lorn Stewart Match play Championship, Sudbury (£10,000); 24-27: Sands International, Sandown Sands (£10,000).

OCTOBER 3-6: Hitachi British Women's Open, Woburn (£140,000); 10-13: Smirnoff Irish Open, venue to be announced (£10,000).

## BOOK REVIEWS

## Dreams to sustain us through the dark days

By Conrad Voss Bark

Around this time of the year fishermen ought to be tying flies, varnishing their rods and reading edifying books. There are several kinds of edifying books but those I am thinking of are those you take to bed because they will create dreams of what must be done at all costs in the coming year. An expedition to the Highlands, to the Catskills, to Taupo? A new method of fishing? Perhaps none is likely to happen, but the thought will keep us going through dark days.

The new guide books are of that category evocative of a place, of moods and feelings, as well as being instructive in a Michelin way. A whole chapter will be devoted to one river, or even a pool in one river, with advice on flies and tackle and where and how to finish it, provoking an appetite as well as satisfying one's curiosity about far-distant places.

Three admirable books of this kind have been produced this year, two are anthologies

one edited by David Barr, a peripatetic East Anglian, the other by my wife, and the third invaluable guide is by John Ashley-Cooper, *A Salmon Fisher's Odyssey* (Witherby £14.50). *West Country Fly Fishing* (Batsford, £9.95) is all good Christmas reading except that the Haug guide is poor on lakes. Four fishing classics have been republished by Andre Waller Hills's *A Summer on the Test*, Plunkett Greene's *Where The Bright Waters Meet*, Chaytor's *Letters to a Salmon Fisher's Son*, and C. F. Tunnicliffe in *Tunnicliffe's Countryside* (Clive Holloway Books, £16.95).

## BOXING: FORMER CHAMPION'S COMEBACK GOES FORWARD

## Hearns wants Leonard rematch

Washington (AP) - Sugar Ray Leonard's first bout in his comeback after a two year lay-off will be against an American welterweight, Kevin Howard, on February 25, according to a WDW-TV report here.

The television station says that Leonard will face Howard, who is ranked eighth in the world, on February 25. The revenue has yet to be decided.

Leonard, the former undisputed world welterweight champion, aged 27 was forced to retire after an operation to repair a detached retina. His doctors have assured him that his eye is now completely healed.

Providing that Leonard comes through his warm-up bout successfully, a rematch against the World Boxing Council (WBC) super welterweight champion, Thomas Hearns, looks likely. But, if the bout against Hearns does take place, Leonard wants championship gloves to be used as a precaution against any further damage to his eye. Whether Leonard would also want to use thumbless gloves against Howard is not known.

Hearns has himself recovered from an injury - to his right hand and is anxious for another bout against Leonard, who is the only man ever to beat him. Hearns attended a press conference in New York on Tuesday, to promote his first title defence - over 12 rounds - against a Minnie, of Italy. But he had Leonard uppermost in his mind.

"I want Leonard," he said. "It is not hard to say since since Hearns reckoned 'That fight would be worth \$20m'."

But first, Hearns will have to beat Minichillo, the former European junior middleweight champion, aged 28, who has a record of 42 wins and two defeats. The venue of the bout, which is scheduled for January 27, has not been announced but it is likely to be in Las Vegas.

Hearns will also have to prove that his feared right hand is now fully operational. Hearns injured his hand when winning the world title a year ago. He achieved a points decision over the Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, despite having to box the final rounds with two dislocated bones.

But Hearns, aged 25, says he is no longer worried by his hand. Neither is he worried about Minichillo. "I don't know anything about Minichillo at all," he said. "That's best for me. I'll be prepared for him a certain way and he came out a different way. I could be in trouble."

Hearns, of course, knows Leonard all too well. He believes Leonard can make a successful comeback despite the length of his lay-off and he still respects Leonard's skill. However, Hearns will also have to prove



Leonard: doctors say his eye is completely healed

that his feared right hand is now fully operational. Hearns injured his hand when winning the world title a year ago. He achieved a points decision over the Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez, despite having to box the final rounds with two dislocated bones.

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## Holmes receives £16½m offer

New York (Agencies) Larry Holmes, who resigned his World Boxing Council title, has been offered an estimated £16½m (\$25m) to meet the South African, Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association champion, in New York City.

The deal was disclosed yesterday by John Cordon, the boxing president of Madison Square Garden, where the contest would be held. He said "We'd put the fight on and take just 60 per cent of the gate. All the rest, the 40 per cent live and all the ancillaries would go to Holmes. We've figured Larry could come out with \$25 million."

Cordon and Holmes will reportedly meet within the next few days. Cordon added: "Larry told me he's

very interested in everything I told him and the last thing he said to me was, 'I'd like nothing better than to fight in the Garden again.'"

If Cordon's proposal is accepted, Holmes would be the Co-promoter of the bout with Madison Square Garden. The last time Holmes, who is 34, boxed in the Garden was June 22, 1979, when he stopped Mike Weaver in the 12th round of a title

unbeaten in 45 bouts, gave up his WBC title because he refused to meet his organisation's official challenger, fellow American Bruce Page.

Holmes said he was joining the newly-formed International Boxing Federation, which is attempting to fund a replacement at this stage of the season to stage off relegation.

## Koopmans defends

Paris (AP) - The Dutch European heavyweight champion, Rudy Koopmans, will defend his title on January 12 in Marseille against the French champion, Richard Caramono-

## How Norwich round up prize scalps like Christmas turkeys

It is not every season that you can say "Yippie, I'm off to see Coventry play Norwich," but it was a fixture with something close to Match of the Day status on Saturday. And if the two clubs did only succeed in cancelling each other out in a match showing more bustle than the most out-of-control lady of fashion, the fact remains that both clubs are still serious contenders for one of those treasured places in Europe after that 0-0 draw.

The Coventry salmagundi of incongruous elements mixed into a harmonious whole is one of the mainstays of the season. What is surprising about Norwich is not their healthy place in the first division (seventh before Saturday's match) but the fact that they are in the first division at all.

Norwich are the top division's perennial underdogs. Football is a big city game. Norwich is a country town with a big cathedral. At this time of year Norfolk is a place more readily associated with increasingly nervous turkeys than with increasingly confident footballers.

But it seems that never a season goes by without the collection of a few prize scalps by the Chingachcocks of Carrow Road. If Watford amazed last season, and Coventry continue to amaze this, Norwich manage to find an amazing Saturday or three every season. True, they spent much of last season walking to heel behind the relegation dog-catcher and only jumped clear at the moment he swung his net, but they also did the double over Liverpool. At Norwich surprises are part of the routine.

The theory used to be that it was the genius of the former manager John Bond, and his talent for spreading not much Marmite on an awful lot of toast, that allowed Norwich to cling on to their improbable position in the first division. When Bond upped and went to Manchester City in October 1980, leaving Ken Brown, his No 2 in charge, it seemed unlikely that the usual seasonal miracle of staying up could ever be worked again.

"I've got a different approach to John Bond," Brown said. "He can be very, very demanding of players, and very frightening. I prefer to let players take responsibility for themselves, to enjoy themselves in a responsible, not a sloppy, kind of way. John was the kind of man who used to take the worries of management home with him every Sunday. I vowed I would never do that. But beyond that there were no special problems in taking over. I had always worked closely with John and know as much about the players as he did."

However, Brown's first trick as manager was to drop through the trapdoor to the second division, where you would expect the club they were back up again. "It was a real nail-biter, that last match in our promotion season. We needed a draw at Sheffield Wednesday, but they scored a winner in injury time. Then their result from Leicester came through, and we were up anyway."

Brown's dealings on the transfer market mostly spring from the sale of Justin Fashanu to Nottingham Forest for £1m; the days of million-pound

transfers seem so remote these days that we might be talking of transfer fees for Achilles and Hector. Fashanu provided cash for three £200,000 signings: Chris Woods, the goalkeeper, John Deehan and Keith Be-

taschin. "We are a small club with a small squad of players, but I'm lucky with players who function in different positions," Brown says. "We have strength in depth through versatility and there are virtues in smallness with a closer-knit group of players. We operate a maximum wage here, too, and players who don't like it can go."

Being a football manager Brown expressed no surprise whatsoever in finding his team in 50 unexpected places, in position after their six successive victories and one defeat in a run of 17 games. "I started with the last dozen or so games last season when we got ourselves out of trouble. I said at the beginning of the season that you can check this - that we had the ability to win a place in Europe. I don't think we're good enough."

As the rumblings about a kind of intercity super league continue, it is pleasant to be reminded that the most enjoyable one of the English football, not just in cup competitions, but also in the League, would have such inter-city size as Manchester City, Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday trying to break out of the second division while the Norwich bumpkin was hanging on in there just seven points behind Liverpool.

Simon Barnes

## IN BRIEF

## McKeever turns his back on Bolton

Rod McKeever, of Bolton, one of the top scorers in basketball's National League, walked out on the club yesterday and returned to New Jersey. The American, who has been with Bolton for two seasons and played in 27 points a game, decided he did not want to be with a losing team.

Bolton have not won a match this season and their promoter, Keith Knight, said: "It will be difficult finding a replacement at this stage of the season to stage off relegation."

TENNIS: Jo Durie, Britain's No 1 woman player, is planning to rest for a month after a successful year in which she has won 16 places in the computer world rankings to eighth. Miss Durie is optimistic that the next list will put her at No 6.

Richard Whitchell, of Kent, is the top seed for the court boys' championship, sponsored by Fry's, which will be held in London, from January 2 to 7. Seeded to meet Whitchell in the final is his doubles partner, Ben Knapp, of Gloucestershire. Sarah Longhurst, of Yorkshire, is No 1 seed for the girls' event.

David de Miguel, of Spain, eliminated John McEneaney's young brother, Patrick, 6-1, 6-2 in the second round of the Orange Bowl on Tuesday. McEneaney, a semi-finalist at the Wimbledon junior championships earlier this year, was the third seed.

GOLF: Ted Dexter, the former England cricket captain, faces a difficult start to his defence of the President's Cup at Rye ne month. He has been drawn against Alex Aldrich-Blake, the best finalist in 1980, in the first round of the tournament, which is organized by the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society.

OLYMPIC GAMES: The Japanese Olympic Committee want to stage the 1990 Olympic Congress in Tokyo. The last Olympic Congress was held in Baden-Baden, W. Germany, in 1981.

TABLE TENNIS - The Asia Table Tennis Union are to propose a championship involving players from European and Asian countries. The union's executive committee, meeting in Bahrain during the first Asian junior championships, decided to approach European authorities with its proposal.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Authorized Units	Insurance Funds	Authorized Units
1. United Life Insurance Co. of New York	1. United Life Insurance Co. of New York	1. United Life Insurance Co. of New York	1. United Life Insurance Co. of New York
2. Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey	2. Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey	2. Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey	2. Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey
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92. Sun Life of Canada	92. Sun Life of Canada	92. Sun Life of Canada	92. Sun Life of Canada
93. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	93. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	93. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	93. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York
94. Colonial Life Insurance Co. of New York	94. Colonial Life Insurance Co. of New York	94. Colonial Life Insurance Co. of New York	94. Colonial Life Insurance Co. of New York
95. Mutual Shares Corp.	95. Mutual Shares Corp.	95. Mutual Shares Corp.	95. Mutual Shares Corp.
96. American Mutual Life Insurance Co.	96. American Mutual Life Insurance Co.	96. American Mutual Life Insurance Co.	96. American Mutual Life Insurance Co.
97. Fidelity Investments	97. Fidelity Investments	97. Fidelity Investments	97. Fidelity Investments
98. Investment Company of America	98. Investment Company of America	98. Investment Company of America	98. Investment Company of America
99. Sun Life of Canada	99. Sun Life of Canada	99. Sun Life of Canada	99. Sun Life of Canada
100. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	100. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	100. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York	100. Western Life Insurance Co. of New York



FOOTBALL: BRITAIN'S LAST HOPES ARE LOST AS YUGOSLAVIA WIN EUROPEAN DECIDER

## Hunt butt severely punished by FA

The Coventry midfielder player, Steve Hunt, was suspended for two matches and fined £750 by an FA disciplinary commission in London yesterday for bringing the game into disrepute. He had been sent off for hitting Steve Williams, of Southampton, in a League match at Highfield Road on November 26. Williams was taken to hospital for X-ray tests on a damaged cheekbone.

Hunt has already served a two-match ban, which is automatic after a sending-off. He has also paid a £750 fine imposed on him by the Coventry manager, Bobby Gould.

Gould appeared on behalf of Hunt at the three-man hearing yesterday and asked for leniency. He was accompanied to Lancaster Gate by the Coventry chairman, Ian Jamieson.

Part of Coventry's case referred to the fact that the Birmingham defender, Noel Blake, was last month suspended for one match and fined £200 for an offence similar to Hunt's.

None of the Coventry party nor the disciplinary commission chairman Les Mackay, would discuss the decision. But the FA's ruling seems harsh in view of Blake's punishment.

Ted Croker, the secretary, said: "I don't believe the disciplinary committee's decision was at all harsh. The punishment was given after full consideration of the facts. Steve Williams had a serious injury, it was a serious offence and we could not ignore it."

It was noted that the club had already taken action against Steve Hunt, but Coventry must realize that the FA committee act independently. I think the punishment fitted the crime. There have been fines in excess of £750 and will continue to be so until this violence is banished from our game."

Hunt had never sent off previously. In 1979-80 he was suspended for one match for accumulating 20 disciplinary points.

## Injury-time goal deals fatal wound to Wales

By Our Sports Staff

Wales failed to qualify for the finals of the European Championship in France next June by virtue of a Yugoslav goal in injury time against Bulgaria in Split yesterday.

With Wales just seconds away from qualifying Radanovic, a defender scored with a header to give Yugoslavia a 3-2 victory and a place in the finals. Wales were Britain's last hope of a representative in the finals.

It was the second heart-breaking experience in a week for the Welsh manager, Mike England, who saw his team's hopes of qualifying plunge at Cardiff last Wednesday when Yugoslavia scored an 81st minute equaliser. England, who listened to the entire match yesterday with his ear cocked to a radio at his home near Prestatyn, said: "Before that winning goal came I really thought that we were going to succeed. My feelings when it went in are impossible to describe. I just felt sick, and that is all I can say."

Wales required a draw or a 1-0 Bulgaria victory for them to qualify with certainty. But as England and the rest of us knew they had lost their real opportunity at Cardiff last night, not surprisingly it was the elegant Susic, outstanding then, who made the most telling



England: heartbroken

contribution against Bulgaria with two goals in the 31st and 32nd minutes.

Iskrenov capped several fine Bulgarian efforts when he broke away in the 28th minute, passed the Yugoslav goalkeeper Simovic and easily scored into an empty goal to give his team a 1-0 lead.

But just three minutes later, Susic rekindled Yugoslav hopes with a right foot shot from 12 yards which was in the post.

Susic, who plays for Paris St Germain, put Yugoslavia 2-1

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RUGBY UNION: WELSH CONTINUE CONTROVERSY OVER BANNED PLAYERS

# Wales may still choose Perkins

John Perkins, the Pontypool lock forward who established himself in Wales's team last season, has been left out of the 34-man squad announced yesterday by WRU for their opening Five Nations match against Scotland in Cardiff on January 21.

Perkins will, however, be considered by Wales once he finishes a one-month ban after being sent off in a recent club match, the chairman of selectors Rod Morgan stated.

Jeff Whitefoot, the uncapped Cardiff prop widely expected to make his international debut this season, has also been left out of the squad after being sent off during last Saturday's Welsh Cup match against Treorchy.

The uncapped locks, Chris Booker (Cross Keys) and David

Waters (Newport), have been preferred to Perkins, as has the British Lion, Robert Norster, even though he has been out of first-class rugby for more than six months since injuring his back in New Zealand during the summer.

Newport's Mike Watkins, is back in favour after proving an inspired captain for Wales B. He could strongly challenge Aberavon's Billy James for the hooker's position and Eddie Butler for the captaincy.

There is still no place in the selectors' calculations for the former Wales captain and Lions stand-off half, Gareth Davies, who is only 27 and enjoying a vintage season with Cardiff.

WELSH SQUAD: Full backs: H Davies (Bridgend), M Wyatt (Swansea), G Evans (Mansel), Three-quarters: R Ackerman (Mansel), R Donovan (South Wales Police), A Hadie (Cardiff), K

Hopkins (South Glamorgan Institute), C Rees (London Welsh), E Rees (Neath), D Richards (Swansea), M Ring (Cardiff), T Tudor (Bridgend), Half backs: B Brown (South Wales Police), M Dacey (Swansea), G John (South Glamorgan Institute), D Bishop (Pontypool), M Douglas (Llanelli), R Giles (Aberavon), J Forster (Cross Keys), E Butler (Pontypool), A Davies (Llanelli), M Davies (Swansea), I Edman (Cardiff), W James (Aberavon), S Jones (Pontypool), R Morgan (Newport), R Morley (Swansea), R Norster (Cardiff), P Pickering (Llanelli), G Roberts (Swansea), T Shaw (Newbridge), I Stephens (Bridgend), D Waters (Newport), M Watkins (Newport).

If there is one area where the four home unions should appear unanimous it is in discipline on the field, David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, writes. There have been several instances in the last few seasons of long-term injuries to players after Anglo-Welsh club matches and though England have maintained a policy of not

picking players for international sides if they have been sent off during the same season, Wales have not followed the same line. It seems particularly unfortunate that they should not have chosen to do so once more in the light of recent publicity given to incidents in the match between Moseley and Swansea. Even if it means the loss of players of international calibre for a season, players should be aware of the possible loss of status which may result from a dismissal. There is no change, however, where Gareth Davies is concerned, and it is equally difficult for "outsiders" to believe that Wales have three stand-off halves all better than the Cardiff player Gareth Davies, who must now be feeling that his days as an international player are over.



Over to you: Glenn manages to get the ball away to the No 14, White, despite the close attentions of Mdawarima and Kayembe at Old Deer Park. (Photograph: Ian Stewart).

## Zimbabwe Schools break even on tour

By David Hands

London Schools.....3  
Zimbabwe Schools.....17

The Zimbabwe national schools side has trodden in the footsteps of the senior side which toured England in September, but with considerably more success. They therefore offer considerable optimism for their country's rugby future after concluding their tour at Old Deer Park yesterday, where they beat London by a goal, two tries and a penalty goal to a penalty and by doing so broke even for their visit.

They lost their opening two games, to Cornwall and Devon and to Lancashire, but beat Cumbria and lost to Scotland by only three points. Since then the touring side has blossomed, drawing with the strong Scottish Midlands and trouncing the

Scottish Youth before the third win at the home of London Welsh, a pleasant homecoming for their Welsh-born manager, Tom Reakes.

Zimbabwe have many of the virtues and faults of their seniors. They like to run the ball, but, under pressure, they concede too many penalties. It was London's misfortune that they could take little advantage of possession won here and from the set pieces though again it was very much a scratch side which met for the first time only yesterday morning.

The English schools representative side does not really begin to take shape until after Christmas so Zimbabwe, with six games behind them, had a vital edge in teamwork, particularly at the mauls and the lineouts, where they use Kazembe, a flanker and one of

two coloured players in the side, at the front to good effect. London had a heavier pack and did well in the set scrums, taking three heels against the head and picking up another ball as it squirted from the side of a retreating Zimbabwe scrum. But their midfield could create little, there seemed too much dependence on the incursions from full back of Hobbs, the captain, and too little time given to working space for a pair of useful wings.

In this respect Zimbabwe were streets ahead. Curtis, their captain, with the action of a greyhound straining at the leash, was a powerful runner who found several gaps and had a willing ally in Jacobs, who scored the first try. This came midway through the first half after a little kick ahead by Mdawarima. Roberts, last

year's 16-group stand-off, recovered a penalty before the interval but tries by Bailey and Watson from some splendid fluent back play emphasized Zimbabwe's superiority. The dependable Pohl, a full back who kicked off both feet and came into his line well, added a conversion and a penalty.

SCORERS: London: Penalty: Roberts; Zimbabwe: Tries: Jacobs, Bailey, Watson, Conversions: Pohl, Penalty: Pohl.  
LONDON SCHOOLS: A Hobbs (Cranehead), D Toombs (Dulwich), C White (Habsburg), A Stele, A Roberts (Wycombe College), S Glenn (Great Cornard Upper), T Willis (Wellington College), J Morris (Godalming College), J Chaffield (Caterham), A Golding (Wymer), C Jennings (Kingsbury HS), M Upex (Netherhall), D Spink (Zimbabwe College), A Kemp (St Paul's), ZIMBABWE SCHOOLS: W Pohl, A Watson, A Jacobs, G Viljoen, V Mdawarima, D Curtis (captain), S Morgan, C Harley, G Zamukwi, M Bailey, T Kazembe, K Butler, J Park, R Style, D Smith.

## Glasgow McGuinness Minister warns Welsh

Glasgow have made only one change in the side to meet South of Scotland at Hawick on Saturday when they had a surprisingly win over Edinburgh at Hugganhead almost a fortnight ago. Gerry McGuinness, West of Scotland's international loose-head prop, broke a home in a hand last Saturday and will be out of action for some weeks. His place has been taken by John Scobie, of Glasgow Academicals, a feature in schoolboy rackets which is becoming more common. With a power-base of precise services, double-handed from the right side, he attacks the ball fiercely and, with racket head well up, kills any loose ball with severe cuts.

Third-seeded Edmund Popplewell, of Radley, defeated Peter Barby, of Oxford, 15-11, 10-15, 15-12, 15-8, although the loser looked initially to be in sound control. Popplewell possesses an excellent backhand service from the right side, but found it being returned with ease. He therefore experimented with the foul cutservice which flies up after striking the back wall.

This and the overhead tennis service into the backhand court which breaks back into the side wall, is another recent feature of schoolboy rackets. This variation of services broke up the rhythm and confounded Barby, who, leading 5-1 at one game all, lost his application and allowed Popplewell to advance to 14-6. He regained his confidence, but from then on was out of contention.

Neil MacFarlane, the Minister for Sport, made an urgent plea to the Welsh Rugby Union yesterday to consider whether to go ahead with further matches against the touring South African youth at Port Talbot. Mr MacFarlane warned the WRU of the implications for sport in Wales if the tour continued.

He told MPs during Commons questions that he had reported the WRU's decision to proceed with the tour despite the controversy it had provoked. "I would urge them even at this late hour to consider the wider implications for sport in the Commonwealth and for sport in Wales. It is certainly contrary to the spirit of the Commonwealth declaration on apartheid in sport."

Mr MacFarlane's plea came after he had reported the warnings about the threat posed to Commonwealth sport if a proposed tour of South Africa by an England rugby team

next year went ahead. He said he would be speaking to the president of the Rugby Football Union, Ron Jacobs, before he and his committee meet to decide whether the tour should continue, to ensure they "fully understand" that at the recent heads of government conference in Delhi Britain's commitment to the declaration on apartheid in sport was reaffirmed.

"The RFU will be deciding in the spring as to whether this proposed tour should take place. I am in no doubt it would have damaging repercussions throughout the whole of Commonwealth sport," Mr MacFarlane said.

John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North, called on Mr MacFarlane to promise that he would not "put any undue pressure or coercion" on the president and his committee over their decision.

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## Award to stud is richly deserved

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

The British breeders' awards, now an annual event, will be presented for the second time in London on January 9 at a luncheon organised by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. The awards were designed to whip up support and enthusiasm in Britain with competition from the United States and Ireland getting hotter and hotter.

The winners of 10 of these awards are known. The eleventh is a special one to the person who, in the opinion of the council of the TBA, has made a significant contribution to the British breeding industry. The winner of this award, which is given by the Duke of Devonshire, past president of the association, will be announced at the presentation.

The award to the leading British-based breeder of flat racehorses for 1983, which is given by the Queen, will go to the White Lodge Stud at Cheveley, near Newmarket. This is singularly well deserved, not just because of Tecnoso's victory in the Derby this year but on account of the successful way that the stud has operated for 30 years or more.

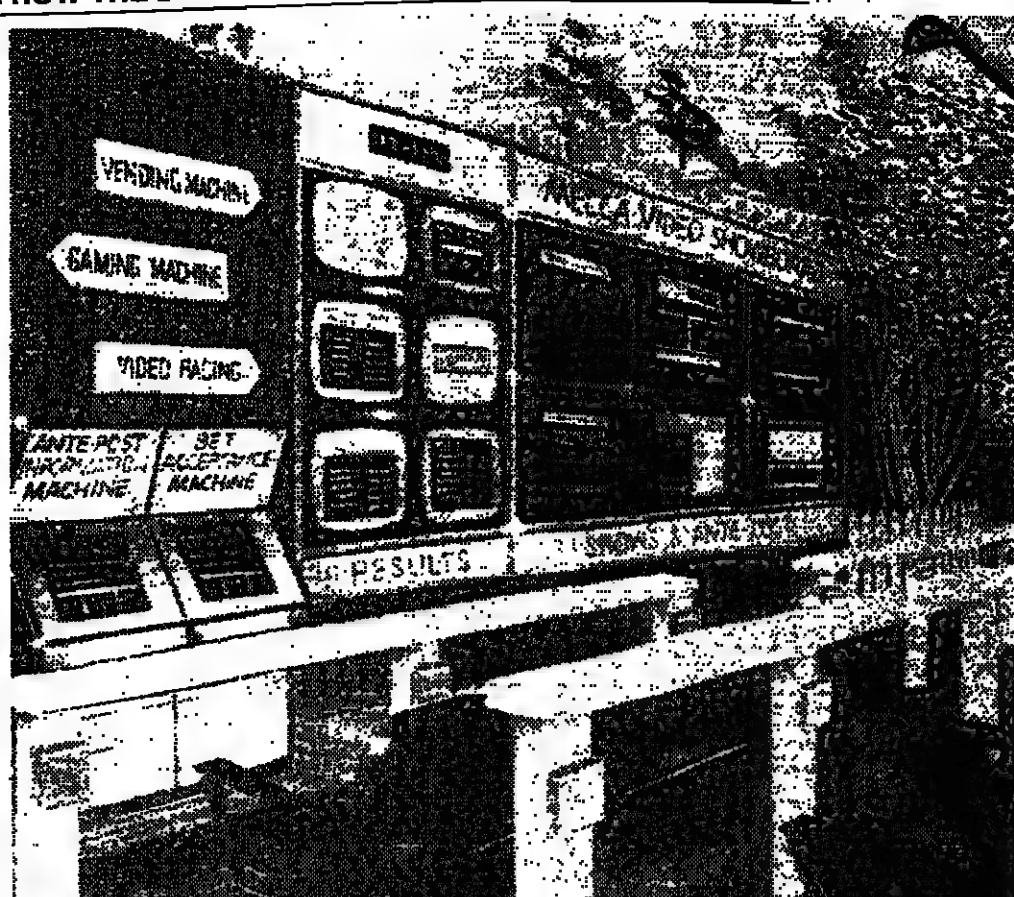
Miss Peggy Pacey wins the National Hunt breeders' award, which is given by jumping's greatest enthusiast, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, thanks primarily to the achievements of Ryeman, who won the Arkle Challenge Trophy. The broodmare award, presented by Mrs Jock, goes predictably to Mrs Moss, owned by Lady Tavistock. Mrs Moss achieved prominence thanks to the foals of her sons, Jupiter Island, by St Paddy, and the Zimereck, winner of the 1979, the fastest son of Mummy's Pet, who gets the Barleythorpe Stud's award for the second year in a row. This goes to the British-based stallion with most individual winners on the Flat during the year in question. The continued success of his offspring makes his death two seasons ago all the more regrettable.

Exactly the same sentiment applies to the man who, in May, Troy became the leading British-based first-season sire, a position that is all the more remarkable for a Derby winner whose stock might be expected to excel during the second and third seasons. The award given by the British Bloodstock Agency to the leading British-based stallion on the Flat goes again to Hill Road.

With Mighty Fly doing so well on the Flat last season and Combs Ditch shining under National Hunt rules, Jim Tordy, their owner-breeder, thoroughly deserves to win the second and third seasons. The award given by the British Bloodstock Agency to the leading British-based stallion on the Flat goes again to Hill Road.

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RACING: HOW THE BETTING OFFICE OF THE FUTURE MAY LOOK



A new idea (above) for the betting office of the future is likely to appear in three months' time. The system is to be installed by Mecca bookmakers, at first for the use of greyhound racing. The machines will be operated by the punters, who place their own win and forecast bets up to a £3 stake. The monitor is linked to a videowall which supplies the runners. Once the selection has been made, the punter puts in his

money and then punches in his bet, using three keys: one for the trap number, the second for the type of bet, and the third for the amount of money staked. From this punter will receive a print-out slip, with all the relevant information, which can be cashed according to the result. Apart from the new technology the betting office will have an "authentic" approach with live trees and two-tone carpet.

## Exciting prospects set to make winning debuts over fences

By John Karter

The meetings at Uttoxeter and Hereford today appear to have miraculously escaped the worst of the countryside deluge that washed out Lingfield Park and Worcester yesterday. There are apparently no problems at either course, although the fare is generally moderate, visitors to both courses can at least look forward to seeing potentially top class novice chasers. The Welder and Trust the King, leading fences for the first time in public.

The Welder, who runs in the Ellistown Novices' Chase at Uttoxeter, won four times and was second in his five other races over hurdles last season. Providing he jumps proficiently, which he has been doing at home at Harwood, he should beat the more experienced but one-paced Gamble Hall and go on to win the Novices' Chase. Dickinson's frayed nerves as he awaits the Boxing Day showdown with Fred Winter at Kempton.

Mind you, it is not just big races that make Dickinson's name. The now famous "Tones of Doom" were very much in evidence as Dickinson discussed The Welder's chance. "On his best hurdles form Gamble Hall would walk all over us," Dickinson said. "So we'll just have to wait and see."

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## RACKETS

### Hard-hitting and hungry for a fight

By William Stephens

Rupert Owen-Brown, the fourth seed from Tonbridge School, forced his way into today's semi-final of the H. H. Foster Cup at Queen's Club when he eliminated Michael Carr, of Radley, 15-2, 15-10, 15-5, in a hard-hitting match of high quality. Both players showed what has been lacking among some competitors, a hunger for a fight.

Owen-Brown is one of the most outstanding exponents of the double-handed backhand stroke, a feature in schoolboy rackets which is becoming more common. With a power-base of precise services, double-handed from the right side, he attacks the ball fiercely and, with racket head well up, kills any loose ball with severe cuts.

## SKIING

### Miss Wenzel races to her first downhill victory

Haus, Austria (Agencies) Hanni

Wenzel, the slalom and giant slalom specialist from Liechtenstein, won her first ever women's World Cup downhill race here yesterday, edging the favourite, Irene Epple, of West Germany, into second place. Miss Wenzel, aged 27, starting from sixteenth position, covered the ice-packed course in 1 minute 44.67 seconds, almost four hundredths of a second faster than Miss Epple.

Miss Epple, who won the downhill at Val d'Isere two weeks ago, started third and appeared to have the race sewn up as later starters failed to match her stunning time of 1 minute 45 seconds. But her second place meant she retained the lead in the World Cup Downhill standings.

## YACHTING

### NZ lead stretched by a point

From John Robertson

Sydney Despite struggling through a slow day, the British team dropped only one point to the leaders in the second race of the Southern Cross Cup, resailed yesterday after being postponed for lack of wind on Saturday. Jade (Larry Woodell), Indulgence (Craham Walker) and Panda (Peter Wherry) finished fifth, twelfth and sixteenth, respectively, but we fortunate that all the other teams had mixed results, too.

The race was started in five to eight knots of breeze, which increased to 10 to 12 knots by the last windward leg, by which time Jade and Indulgence had recovered from poor placings on the first beat. The formbooks of the series, Bandido Bandido, of Hong Kong, and Shockwave, of Australia, led a large group of boats out to sea on the first leg, which was the wrong way to go, and did not recover as well as the British boats, finishing twenty-first and twenty-second.

## BOBSLEIGH

### Swiss to puff on Soviet 'cigar'

Zurich (Reuters) - The Swiss

bobsleigh team have obtained plans of the new revolutionary Soviet sledge and aim to perfect their own version in time for the winter Olympics in Sarajevo in February. The Swiss Bobsleigh Association president, Erwin Bressler, said that a local firm had undertaken to produce a Swiss version before the European Cup in January.

Mr Bressler declined to say how he acquired the plans. "Suffice to say that I have them," he said. Known in Switzerland as the "cigar" because of its narrow build, the new sledge is not without critics who query its safety.

## Hereford selections

By John Karter

12.30 Welsh Oak, 1.0 Severn Sound, 1.30 Poyntz Pass, 2.0 Trust The King, 2.30 Rib Law, 3.0 Do Or Die.

## Uttoxeter selections

By John Karter

12.45 Haystack, 1.15 Sharpshooter, 1.45 Satin Grange, 2.15 The Welder, 2.45 Wood Avenue, 3.15 Ladycross.



# THE ARTS

Michael Darlow has fought his way out of television type-casting to direct his first feature film, *Accounts*, to be shown on Channel 4 tonight. Interview by David Robinson

## Emotional self-discovery

*Accounts*, which is to be shown on Channel 4 tonight, is Michael Darlow's first feature film, though in fact he very nearly emerged as a feature director three years ago. At the end of 1980 he began work on *The Desert King*, the story of the Saudi of Saudi Arabia, at the time that Islamic politics contributed to various factors which halted the production, something in the region of a million pounds - certainly upwards of twice the budget of *Accounts* - had already been spent. "It's a pity it didn't come to anything. It really could have been a wonderful script by Franco Solinas, who wrote *The Battle of Algiers*."

Darlow began his career in the theatre as an actor and producer. His first film was more or less accidental. His mother was active with World Refugee Year, and when a film promised by the Rank Organisation foundered, she told her son: "You're a producer, why don't you make a film?" The result was called *All These People*, and was successful enough to encourage him to collaborate with the late Robert Vase on a documentary about the demolition of the old Marlborough Music Hall. On the strength of this, John Boorman, who was then producing for television in Bristol, invited him to work there.

The major influence, though, was working with Denis Mitchell at Granada. "I idolized him. It was people like Humphrey Jennings and Denis, who could find the intrinsic quality in people and things, who really interested me. What was happening in documentary was then so different from British film. Darlow's career was further boosted when his series *Cities at War* won a BAFTA award.

"The problem in television is that you get type-cast. I was now typed as a documentary director. The BBC asked me to direct Terence Rattigan's obituary - he was still alive then; after he died I wrote a book about him, in collaboration with Gillian Hodson. They expected me to work on film and were surprised when I chose to work on tape. I made that decision because it seemed to me to suit the play extracts we used better. They made them seem more theatrical. So after that was again typed as a tape director rather than a film director. Still I was able to do some interesting things on tape - *Crime and Punishment*, and *Suez 1956* which at least had the merit of being the longest play the BBC had made till that time. But several ideas I had for feature films came to nothing. And I didn't want to make just any film, merely for the sake of making a film.

"So then there was *The Desert King*, and, finally, *Accounts*. Michael Wilcox had originally written the play for the Traverse Theatre for the 1981 Edinburgh Festival. It came to London to the Riverside, and won the George Devine Award, though it didn't get wonderful audiences. I instantly wanted to turn it into a film. It is about a lot of things I have wanted to make a film about. Moreover I had always wanted to work up there in the North, ideally on a hill farm like the one in the film. It is amazing country, around the Cheviots. They have their own extraordinary light.

"The play has the quality of exploring very under emotions in a context which makes the concessions at all to sentimentality. I suppose in a word it is



Robert Smeaton (left) and Michael McNally, with Elspeth Charlton as their mother

about maturity, or finding maturity. Michael Wilcox lives and works in rural Northumberland, at Halkwhistle. He had been very struck by the phenomenon of country boys, often very inexperienced, who have to shoulder enormous financial responsibilities - because farming can be a very dangerous business, with implications and consequences much huger than many of us ever have to encounter. And beyond this Michael's play explores the nature of finding emotional maturity, of standing up and discovering who you are - and exploring it in a context where it is perhaps unexpected or at least unfamiliar. For a lot of us rural life is represented by *The Archers*, perhaps; but in *The Archers* emotions are very simple.

"The boys in the film and their mother - uprooted as a result of the father's death - have to discover who they are, have to learn to live together and how their relationships work, have to learn their sexual directions, have to learn to respect each other. Above all they have to learn to express themselves. It's all part of growing towards maturity. At the start of the film they are like puppies from one litter - they even sleep in the same bed. At the end they are starting to grow up.

"One of the great qualities of the play is that you cannot identify single motives. The characters are full of conflicting motives and emotions. It is a real human complexity. Michael Wilcox writes wonderfully about adolescence. He was a teacher, and his own adolescence was very important to him. He is tremendous with kids, too. He is a great sportsman. He plays for the

local team and is very much a part of the local scene. You might wonder at the scene where the two boys write poetry. I can only say that Michael gets the local kids in Halkwhistle writing poetry and doing their own plays.

"The only member of the original stage cast still remaining in the film is Anthony Roper, who plays the trainer. Of course the film must stand or fall by the two boys. The original stage actors were too old to be right for the film. We went through all the professional Northumbrian actors without success. Then Michael Wilcox suggested Bob Smeaton, who was the lead singer with a successful local singer group, White Heat. Michael had seen him introducing a magazine show on local television. Michael McNally, who plays the younger brother, comes from a family that does a club act in the north. He is the 'serious' one; he's doing a law degree at the Tech.

"Once they were cast, we sent them off to the farm for a couple of weeks and told the farmer to make them work with the animals and everything.

They adapted to it all marvelously. We explained to them that they were going to belong to us body and soul for the duration of the shooting period, which had to extend over the four seasons of the year; and that they would have to learn to do all the farm work properly. But, by God, they worked - they really worked!

"Of course we rewrote the stage play, eliminating a lot and introducing a lot more that was not in the original. The writing process went on while we were shooting, as we discovered the things we needed. There was an element of *Day for Night* - but not too much. Occasionally we asked the boys to improvise, mostly in the scenes with the animals, and in a sequence in the pub where Bob asks some local lads where he can find girls in Kelsa. As we continued the boys became very confident about this. Of course we did not try it at first; at the beginning it would have been too difficult for them. But with time they learnt to relax, which is the great thing for an actor.

"The biggest problems with non-professional actors come when they have to play a sub-

## Theatre

### Oliver Aldwych

Evoking the whole of mid-Victorian London, but never seeking to deceive the spectator into believing he is looking at anything other than a stage. Sean Kenny's set for *Oliver!* was instantly recognized as the work of a great designer. With the passage of time, those weathered timbers, revolving into grimy alleyways and foggy river prospects, have also taken on the quality of an altar to theatrical integrity, and the only recommendation Peter Coe's revived production needs is that it lives up to the set.

This is the Dickens of desolation, underworld squalor and the nightmare face at the bedroom window; and pretty well obliterating the Dickens of saccharine virtue and kindly old gentlemen dispensing free soup.

The dramatic justification of Lionel Bart's music (and, however good the numbers are in themselves, they are vastly better in context) is that it was the story of becoming unbearable, and gives the wretched of the earth the chance to stand up for themselves. Down comes the grim portcullis inscribed "God is Love" in the opening scene, but even before the great lighted out, the starving waifs have cast paths aside and are roaring their great hymn to "Food".

The central event of the show is Ron Moody's return to his

## Irving Wardle

original role as Fagin. Brought up on the thieves' kitchen idea of the villainous Jew, this performance was a revelation to me.

Without omitting a particle of Fagin's guile and repulsive vigilance, Mr Moody - fingers and eyes dancing - also projects his real affection for the boys, his self-respect as an artist, crime, and his capacity for self-mockery. Rejoiced from the Dickensian dock, he finally takes rapid flight into the night shadows of London Bridge - a fitting end for a performance that converts him from an anti-Semitic stereotype into an emblem of Jewish survival. Once seen never forgotten.

There are no weak links in the supporting company. David Garlick's Dodger sustains his unflappable toff routine from the moment he first rolls down his one tattered sock. Jackie Marks's Nancy, vocally well in command of her ballads as well as rollicking choruses at the Three Cripples, also looks well on the way to ruin, doped up by the eyes of Fagin's attachment to Lina. Lina's quietly murderous Sykes is totally credible. And Anthony Pearson's Oliver treads a perfectly judged path between mischief and virtue.

The orchestrations, repeatedly picking up numbers and putting them through atmospheric modulations, beautifully complement the continual transformations of the set.

## Special Occasions

### Ambassadors

Coinciding nicely with a lead letter in this newspaper about the marked effect on children if divorced parents manage to go on cooperating, Bernard Slade's two-hander comedy considers the effect of post-divorce meetings on the parents themselves. Repeating the format of his earlier *Same Time, Next Year* - successive dialogues spread over a number of years - it takes the temperature of the couple's relationship at inter-

## John Alderton

vals, watching their liaisons with other partners come and go. As a rule, they meet only for births, remarriages, deaths, and other events: hence the title.

John Alderton and Jan Waters first appear in ironic vein at their fifteen-minute party that just gets in ahead of the divorce. (Actually, Mr Alderton had come out before the curtain to explain that his bad back went again at the last preview and would be under-stand?) She is starting to drink, clearly headed for disasters and cures. He, doing well in television, gets his subsequent ups and downs in the shape of being fired, starting as a freelance playwright (shades of Slade's *Romantic Comedy*), failing and eventually succeeding. The children's fortunes flicker just as predictably: the handsome son gets caught in a burning sports car, the Chopinist daughter ends in the pop world and the youngest provides an illegitimate grandchild at the age of 17.

## Dance

### Dash Dominion

I wish I could be more enthusiastic about the latest version of Wayne Sleep's *Dash*, which opened this week for a short season at the Dominion.

The original show was launched three years ago, and, although it was by no means perfect, it had a genuine freshness and energy, and some very good ideas. It still has some good ideas, but the best of them are the originals: the tap dancing cygnets, the classical *pas de deux* which lets you hear the dancer's real thoughts, and even these could now benefit from some severe editing. Sleep's impersonations, too, are becoming rather over-familiar, although, cut to a minimum and presented as part of a *Winter Olympics* sequence, which mysteriously includes lawn tennis and American football, they do well enough.

New additions are a "Come Dancing" number, which has distinct possibilities but lacks

## BBCSO/Atherton

### Festival Hall/Radio 3

The second instalment in the Ravel/Varese Festival was rather like the first. We had exchanged the Queen Elizabeth for the Festival Hall, and the London Sinfonietta for the BBC Symphony Orchestra, in order to hear the biggest blockbusters of both composers - but again Paul Crossley was on hand to give a nimble and searching account of a Ravel concerto (this time the one for left hand), and again David Atherton was proving how far clarity of sound and determination of rhythm can go in the interpretation of two composers so spily contrasted. Again too, Ravel was shown to be quite as odd and dangerous a character as his revolutionary fellow.

To discover a malevolent savagery in the minimalist *Boleto* is perhaps nothing new but Mr Atherton also found deeper undercurrents in the *Rapsodie Espagnole* which normally passes for a set of

## Concert

### BBCSO/Atherton

luridly coloured postcards. We tend to forget that Ravel's Spain was not Benidorm and a natured flamenco. It was a Spain of the imagination, and most particularly of the literary imagination: hence the rightness of a performance that began like a sequence of serenades outside a house where *Don Juan* is at large. The work was still terribly discreet but it certainly knew what it was being discreet about.

In part it must be said this was due to a very physical quality in the playing, a sense of the sometimes flat flesh behind the sounds. And, not surprisingly, that was most prominent when the sounds were most odd: the strangled double bass, the hammering of the *Rapsodie*, for instance, were disconcerting, and the opening of the concerto, with double bassoon sounding its lugubrious theme over unattractively low strings, was almost comic. That was surely not right. Even Ravel's strangest sonorities ought to appear sublimely beautiful and well mannered, like the dandy

## Television

### Fictional facts

Q.E.D. (BBC 1) posed the question *Eyewitness Evidence... Fact or Fiction?* which rather missed the point: the bald distinction between fact and fiction is not helpful, since we tend to rely upon interpretations of visual material which are sometimes afforded the status of facts. In that respect, this analysis of "eyewitness evidence" was obscure from the start: eye since the days of religious apparitions, eyes have been known to see differently.

There was in last night's documentary a great deal of what is called "investigation" into the subject - although the film-makers had clearly not taken to heart their own commentary which insisted that "the suggestion of just one word can make us remember something that never happened". In this case, "investigation" might lead a bewildered viewer to believe that the commentator Anthony Clare had informed

## Law Report

### December 22 1983

The legal rights of the parties derived from the order and a consent order could be set aside on appeal in the same way as any other order.

Available grounds in addition to fraud and mistake included a material failure to comply with an obligation of disclosure. *Thomlin v. Minion* (1982) Fam 1, 8. Looking at the letters which passed between the respective solicitors no agreement could be implied that the obligation of disclosure was waived. The court would proceed on the basis of full disclosure. There was no failure on the part of the wife to comply with an obligation to disclose her financial position. There was no essential difference between the present case and the case of *Wales v. Hadjian* (1977) 1 WLR 199.

It had been argued that where the effect of an order made in the matrimonial jurisdiction was substantially altered by an event supervening after it had been made the order could be set aside and a new order substituted which would be fair.

An attendance before the registrar was necessary to enable answers to be given to any queries that he might have in the course of the exercise of the jurisdiction.

Solicitors: G & I Chisholm, Bodmin; Bond Pearce & Co, Liskeard.

## Agreement to pay all costs unlawful

### Windvale Ltd v. Darlington Insulation Co Ltd

A provision in an arbitration agreement whereby one party agreed in advance to pay the costs of both parties was prohibited by section 18(3) of the Arbitration Act 1950. Mr Justice Walton held in the Chancery Division on December 20.

HIS LORDSHIP said that section 18(3) provided that "any provision in an arbitration agreement to the effect that the parties or any party thereto shall in any event pay their or his own costs of the reference or award or any part thereof shall be void". Although the provision in

## No privilege against self incrimination

### Universal City Studios Inc and Others v. Hubbard and Others

question was outside the strict wording of the subsection, where one party paid the costs of both he was not bound to do so, and an agreement to do so, unless entered into after the dispute had arisen, was prohibited by the subsection.

In exercising the court's discretion to set aside the arbitration award rather than remit it to the original arbitrator, a matter on which there was very little authority, in a case in which on every point on which it was possible to go wrong the arbitrator had done so, his Lordship thought it proper to start again with a clean sheet and ordered that the award be set aside.

## Order not upset by remarriage

### Jenkins v. Livesey (formerly Jenkins)

Before Sir John Arnold, President and Mrs Justice Heilbrunn [Judgment delivered December 21]

The Court of Appeal refused to set aside a consent order by which the former husband transferred his half-share in the former matrimonial home to the wife on her agreement to give up her right to periodical payment gave him leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The consent order had been made by Mr Registrar Carder on September 2, 1982 which embodied an agreement made between the parties on or about June 22, 1982. The wife had remarried on September 24, 1982 and the husband had not learned of her remarriage until October 21, 1982. Judge Cox had dismissed an appeal from the registrar's order on May 5, 1983.

Mr A. C. Myer for the husband; Miss Jean H. Ritchie for the wife.

THE PRESIDENT, giving the judgment of the court, said that following the dissolution of the marriage a consent order had been made by the registrar which embodied the terms of an agreement made between the parties on or about June 22, 1982. The order provided that the husband would transfer to the wife his interest in the former matrimonial home which belonged to the spouses in equal shares and all claims of the husband and wife against each other for periodical payments would be dismissed.

On September 24, 1982 the wife remarried. The husband sought to have the consent order set aside on two alternative grounds: first that the wife should have informed him of her intention to remarry before the making of the consent order; second, the fact of remarriage after the making of the consent order.

## Prisoner is entitled to go direct to solicitor

### Regina v. Governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, Ex parte Anderson

Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann [Judgment delivered December 21]

The prohibition on a visit by a legal adviser, made under Standing Order 5A 34 issued through Rule 33 of the Prison Rules (SI 1964 No 386) to advise on a prisoner's complaints about prison treatment in regard to contemplated litigation prior to the lodging of an internal complaint with the prison authorities (the simultaneous lodging of a rule) was *ultra vires*, and a prisoner was entitled to correspond with his legal adviser in regard to the contemplated litigation without first lodging a complaint through the internal disciplinary procedures of the prison.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application for judicial review by James Anderson against the decision of the assistant governor of Wormwood Scrubs Prison on July 13, 1983, to refuse to allow the applicant to consult his legal adviser, Miss Akster, an articulated clerk of the firm of B. M. Birnberg & Co.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, giving the judgment of the court, said that on June 16, 1983, there was a disturbance at Wormwood Scrubs Prison between inmates and officers as a result of which the applicant was charged with six offences against prison discipline.

Miss Akster was asked to advise the applicant in connection with possible civil proceedings alleging assault by one or more officers during the disturbance.

She was refused permission to see the applicant on July 14 by the assistant governor because he thought the applicant was intending to make allegations against prison

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officers' conduct and the standing orders issued by the Home Office required that an internal complaint be initiated first. The Home Office confirmed that decision and there had been no interview yet between the applicant and his solicitors on that matter.

His Lordship said that it was plain that the problem was the relationship between the internal investigation within a prison of a matter giving rise to an allegation by an inmate against a member of the prison staff, and the right of an inmate to pursue his complaint by a civil action against a member of staff.

Mr Fitzgerald submitted that unimpeded access to a solicitor so as to initiate civil proceedings in the courts was an inseparable part of the right of access to the courts themselves. Therefore the simultaneous ventilation rule was an impediment since it required a complainant to write to the prison governor first, thereby exposing himself to the possibility of being charged with a rule, and making a false and malicious allegation against a member of the prison staff.

Mr Brown submitted there was no absolute principle that such an impediment was *ultra vires*. The question was one of balance. The rule merely regulated the circumstances in which inmates had access to solicitors, and was in the interests of good administration of prisons and discipline and control of their inmates.

His Lordship said that it was proper for there to be regulations to control the access of prisoners to solicitors. But it was clear from the case of *Raymond v. Honey* (1983) AC 1 that a prisoner's right of access to a solicitor to institute proceedings should be unimpeded in the same way as his right to begin proceedings by sending essential documents for that purpose was unimpeded.

In this case the applicant's request to see a solicitor was an inseparable part of his right of access to the courts themselves. The rule was an impediment since it required him to do something which otherwise he could not be required to do. No inmate could be compelled to make an internal complaint against a member of the prison staff.

The requirement that an inmate should make such a complaint as a prerequisite of his having access to his solicitor went beyond the regulation of the circumstances in which such access could take place

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Mr Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Treasury Solicitor.

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## Divisional Court

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# Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Daville

## BBC 1

- 8.00 **Casualty** AM: News and information.
- 8.30 **Breakfast Time**: With Frank Bough and Selina Scott. Today's "specials" include: Breakfast Time Doctor (between 8.30-9.00), Food and Cooking (between 9.00-9.30) and 9.00 with Glynn Christian. Regular items include news at 8.30, and every half-hour until 9.30. Sport (8.40 and 8.45), TV Choice (8.55), Review of the Papers (7.15 and 8.15) and "Your Stars" (8.35).
- 9.00 **The New Adventures of Flash Gordon**: cartoon version of the superhero's adventures; 9.20 **Battle of the Planets**: another American cartoon import; 9.45 **Blue Peter Special**. Assignments: the story of Saint Theresa of Lisieux. Told by Peter Purves (10.30) and School: Barbara Lindgreen and Eva Erikson's story The Wild Baby's Boy Trip: 10.55.
- 11.00 **End and the Detective**: part two of this Walt Disney's version of the famous children's story; 12.00 **Look Back with Noakes**: Mr Noakes and Shep, his dog, walk the Pennine Way (10.30).
- 12.30 **News After Noon**: 1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One: 1.45 **Postman Pat**.
- 2.00 **Country Lines**: Nigel Farrell travels on four of the most picturesque and remote branch lines on the British Rail network.
- 2.30 **Film: Birth of the Blues (1941)**: Bing Crosby as the leader of the first all-black Dixieland Jazz Band. With Mary Martin, Brian Donlevy. Director: Victor Schoenberg.
- 3.55 **Play School**: It's Thursday, 4.20 **The Adventures of Blinky and Rocky**; 4.25 **Jackanory**: Jan Francis reads from Barrie's Peter Pan; 5.05 **Newsround**; 5.10 **Blue Peter**: Carole around the Christmas Tree. And more news of the Weather Beater Appeal.
- 5.40 **Sixty Minutes**: the line-ups are news (5.50), weather (6.15) and closing headlines.
- 6.40 **Angels**: final episode of the hospital life drama serial.
- 7.05 **Tomorrow's World**: Science and technology magazine. Includes an item about a beetle that could save our Christmas trees.
- 7.30 **Top of the Pops**: with John Peel and David Jensen. It goes out live.
- 8.05 **Wildlife on One: Red River Safari**. Down the Tana river, which starts life on the snowy peaks of Mount Kenya and then takes 500 miles to reach the Indian Ocean. Along its banks: rhinos and hippos, rare monkeys, scarlet sunbirds, and bongo and parrots.
- 8.30 **Only Fools and Horses**: Del (David Jensen), still on the trail of the elusive fast buck, offers to paint the flat of his friend Gerald (Paul Barber), but Gerald's wife (Eva Erikson) is far from keen on the idea.
- 9.00 **News**: the reader is John Humphreys. And weather for Friday.
- 9.25 **The Crazy Gang**: a Celebration. Denis Gifford, the master of instant nostalgia, with members of Flanagan and Allen, Nervo and Knox, Naughton and Gold, and Mosever Edme Gray. Clips from their films, reminiscences of show business folk, and location filming at the Victoria Palace "home" of the Crazy Gang and the Palladium.
- 10.25 **Film 83**: Barry Norman with clips from new releases including Natalie Wood's final film *Brainstorm*. Peter Yates's science-fiction fantasy *Korhal*, and the new monster movie, *Jaws 3-D*.
- 11.00 **The Rockford Files**: crime story starring James Garner. 11.50 **News** and weather.

## TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain**: with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Today's Thursday "specials" include: Fain Brown (panic buying with the stars) at 7.45, Guess Who? (at 8.30), and Film Review (8.35). Regular items include news at 6.25, 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; Competition Time (8.25); Today's papers (8.25).
- 9.00 **Today's Winter Weekend**.
- 9.00 **TV LONDON**
- 9.00 **Themes news headlines**. Followed by: *Sesame Street*.
- 10.25 **Film: Flash Gordon (1981)**. Full-length made-for-television cartoon version of the American comic strip. For the adventure of old, the Emperor Ming, now read Barin, Emperor of Mongo.
- 12.00 **Timeline and Claudia**: for the very young, 12.30 **Get up and Go!** with Beryl Reid and Micoon (12.30). 12.30 **The Sullivans**.
- 1.00 **News from ITN**; 1.20 **Themes News**; 1.30 **To the Ends of the Earth**: The full story of the three years it took for Sir Ranulph Fiennes and his companion Charles Burton to make the first Pole-to-Pole circumnavigation of the globe. They covered 52,000 miles and traversed the five continents.
- 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**: Australian drama serial.
- 4.00 **Film: First Men in the Moon (1954)**. A wonderfully illustrated fantasy based on the H. G. Wells story, about an 1899 expedition to the Moon involving Edward Judd, Lionel Jeffries (a hugely enjoyable comedy performance), Martha Hyer and Eric Chitty. The special effects are remarkable.
- 5.45 **News**; 6.00 **Themes News**; 6.20 **Crossroads**.
- 6.45 **Knight Rider**: The hunt is on for an ingenious cat burglar.
- 7.30 **Carry on Laughing**: the Christmas Classics: Kenneth Williams and the most hilarious link these excerpts from many of the Carry On comedies, hardly any of which have anything to do with Christmas.
- 8.00 **Hotel**: The continuing story of the staff and glamorous guests at San Francisco's luxurious St Gregory Hotel. Tonight: Peter's ex-wife unexpectedly returns on his birthday. And an elderly couple arrive at the hotel, intending to have a free weekend.
- 9.00 **News**. And *Themes news*.
- 9.15 **Film: Capricorn One (1978)**. Exceptionally clever space-fiction drama which provides a stark contrast with *First Men in the Moon* (at 4.00). This one is about the first men on Mars - except that they don't actually land on the planet, though the secret of what actually happens to them is closely kept at the expense of people's lives being put in jeopardy. Starring Elliott Gould as the man who smokes a rat. With James Brolin, Brenda Vaccaro, Sam Waterston, Hal Holbrook and Telly Savalas. Gloria: St James's Church in London's Piccadilly (a Wren masterpiece) is the setting for a concert of memorable music by Mozart, Handel and Vivaldi. With the English Chamber Orchestra and Choir, and soloists Jill Gomez (soprano), and Margaret Cople (mezzo). Work: Includes Mozart's *Exultate, Jubilate*; Vivaldi's *Gloria in D*; and the pastoral symphony from Handel's *Messiah*.
- 12.30 **A Different Christmas**: After eight years spent in north-east London, a Russian Catholic missionary, is spending Christmas at home in Britain. Gillian Reynolds talks to her.



Robert Smeaton in Accounts (Channel 4, 9.30pm)

## CHOICE

These are our Dees, says the budding shepherd, indicating the sweep of the Border country that he and his brother, and their freshly widowed mother have just moved up to from neighbouring Northumberland, in Michael Wilcock's film *COUNTIES* (Channel 4, 9.30pm). "Well, ours and the bank's", is the amending afterthought. Elsewhere in the film, someone else with his nose close to the earth (and there is nobody in Accounts who has not got farm mud on his boots), says that resources, like the land, are not for making money, but for making the best use of it. Before you start running away with the idea that Accounts is an agricultural treatise, let me rapidly assure you that it is not fundamentally that kind of work at all, though the struggles of the Mawson family to balance their books is undoubtedly the thread that runs through it. The most complicated

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accounts that the brothers have to settle (the mother is a secondary figure, symbolizing discipline) are to do with their personal relationships as they advance from bawling and taunting adolescence to what could well be responsible adulthood. There are some highly complex emotions bubbling away just beneath the surface of Accounts. It is just as dramatic when they do not break the skin as when they do.

Accepting the fact that the best view for the reading of THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS must always be the one inside our own head, Bernard Cribbins' rendering is an exemplary second-best in the 12-part serialisation (by Angela Thomas) of Kenneth Grahame's book that begins on Radio 4 at 4.40. He has caught Mole, Rat and Toad perfectly, though I fear you will have to wait for tomorrow's instalment to realise how expertly Mr Cribbins has got the measure of the fabled squire of Toad Hall. A reminder: a British-made musical version of The Wind in the Willows, with instantly recognisable voices such as Ian Carmichael, Michael Hordern's, Beryl Reid's and Una Stubbs' issuing from the mouths of some ingeniously animated model figures, is one of TV's Holiday Tuesday attractions. The adaptation is the work of Rosemary Anne Sisson, which means that we need not feel apprehensive about what influences being at work such as those that were brought to bear on Kenneth Grahame's exquisite book when it fell into the playful hands of the literary studies, years ago.

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Bookshelf. Radio 4's book programme.

Story Time "The Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame, abridged in 12 parts (1). The abridgement by Bernard Cribbins (see Choice).

5.00 **News Magazine**. 5.50 **Shipping Forecast**. 6.00 **Weather**.

6.00 **The Six O'Clock News**. Financial Review.

6.30 **Michael O'Donnell** is in the chair, and the opposed partners are Dora Fowles and Frank Muir, and Douglas Fraser and David Norton (10.1).

7.00 **News**.

7.05 **The Archers**.

7.20 **News**. Fresh Air: Ian Galloway shares the pleasure of a favourite walk on the Scottish island of Iona.

7.30 **A Christmas Carol**: direct from the Town Hall, Birmingham. Part 1: CBSO chorus and children of the Birmingham and the City of Birmingham Junior School.

8.15 **Any Answers?** With David Jackson.

8.35 **Concert**. Part 2.

9.30 **Kaleidoscope**. Arts magazine. Includes comment on Moby Dick at the Royal Festival Theatre, Manchester; The last of Gordon North production of Verdi's opera *Il trovatore*; 9.55 **Weather**.

10.00 **The World Tonight**. News.

10.10 **The World Tonight**. "Mamma" by R. S. Surtees (14).

11.15 **The Financial World Tonight**. Today in Parliament.

12.00 **News**.

12.15 **Shipping Forecast**.

12.15 **Shipping Forecast**. Above except: 6.25-6.30 **Weather**; Travel. 1.55pm **Listening Corner**. 5.50-5.55 **PM (continued)**. 11.50-11.55 **Study on 4: Alice France**.

## CHOICE

8.05 **Morning Concert** part two. Strauss (Dust - consisting of Gershwin, at McBride (Second Rhapsody) and Smetana's Symphonies Poem Heaton Jarl, Op 157.

9.00 **News**.

9.05 **This Week's Composer**: Serventy. The Concerto. 1920; Three Songs from William Shakespeare (with Ann Murray, mezzo), Tango (Neil Lee, piano), and Concerto for piano (Katie Hamilton, 14.05, 5.30, 6.30, 7.30).

10.00 **City of London Sinfonia**: Avison's Concerto Grosso in G, Op 4, No 6, Britten's Prelude and Fugue for 15 Strings, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No 12 for string orchestra.

10.45 **Lute Recital** by Robert Spencer. Works by Anthony Holborne, Thomas Robinson, Philip Rosentritt and Alan Rickard (suite for lute, 1970).

11.15 **Scottish National Orchestra**: Haydn's Symphony No 92. Interval reading at 11.35. Then, at 11.40, Smetana's *Ma Vlast* (My Country).

1.00 **News**.

1.05 **Cherish and Praise**: recital by Einar Johansson and Philip Jenkins. Weber's Introduction, theme and variations; Nils Wilhelm Gade's *Stabat Mater*. Op 43, and Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande*.

1.30 **Concert**. Part 1. The 1983 Salisbury Festival production of Mozart's two-act opera, with Margaret Marshall and Ann Murray as the incantation sisters and James Morris as Francisco. Ariza as the sporting young man. Riccardo Muti conducts the Victoria Philharmonic and State Opera Chorus, with Kathleen Battle as the sisters' maid and solo soprano as the Queen. Interval reading at 2.05, and Act 2 at 2.10.

4.55 **News**.

5.00 **Mainly for Pleasure**: Another of Brian Kay's selections. It includes First in Terra Pax, and Vaughan Williams' *On a Christmas Carol*.

6.30 **Bandstand**: with the Sun Life Band. They play Julian Grant's Variations for Brass Band (first broadcast) and Elgar's *Serenade*.

7.00 **The Gentlemen of the Chapel**: Puccini and the English Revolution: The last of Gordon Reynolds's programmes.

7.30 **Josef and Maria**: Play by Peter Turteltaub. The story of the Virgin Mary and the carpenter Joseph in the apartment store where the cleaner (Elizabeth Spriggs) and the nightwatchman (Michael Denham) work, the two find a cure for loneliness with the aid of a "liberated" bottle of brandy. Roger. 12.15.

8.35 **Schubert and Hindemith**: recital by Nikolai Ivan (violin) with Roger Vignoles as accompanist. Schubert's Sonatas in A minor, D 821 (Arpeggione), and Hindemith's Sonata for Viola, Op 25, No 1.

9.20 **Tradition**: Peter Vaughan reads the short story by Naomi Douai.

9.45 **Musical in Our Time**: Music by Justin Corbett. Introduced by Anthony Payne. Poems of Wallace Stevens: 1. *Circumstances for brass quintet*. Verse for eight solo voices and a piano for voice and orchestra, with Frederick Riddle (viola).

11.00 **The Complete Webers**: Songs to texts by Stefan George. With Phyllis Bryn-Julson (soprano).

11.15 **News**. Until 11.18.



Elizabeth Spriggs: Josef and Maria (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

## Radio 2

- 5.00pm **Play Movers**: 7.30 Terry Wogan. 10.00 *Jimmy Young*. 12.00 *pat Mullen While You Work with the Bill Jackson Group*. 12.30 *Gloria Hunnford*. 12.50 *Sports Desk*. 2.30 *Ed Stewart*. 3.00 *Sports Desk*. 4.00 *David Hamilton*. 4.25 *Sports Desk*. 5.00 *John Dunn*. 5.45 *Sports and Classified Results* (for only 7.30). 6.00 *Marching and Walking*. 6.30 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 7.30 *Sports Desk*. 8.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 8.30 *Sports Desk*. 9.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 9.30 *Sports Desk*. 10.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 10.30 *Sports Desk*. 11.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 11.30 *Sports Desk*. 12.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 12.30 *Sports Desk*. 1.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 1.30 *Sports Desk*. 2.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 2.30 *Sports Desk*. 3.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 3.30 *Sports Desk*. 4.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 4.30 *Sports Desk*. 5.00 *Country Club with Wally Whyton*. 5.30 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